

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)

Good?

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

2/27/17 – 3/5/17

Toledo Blade: Ohio House approves \$7.8B for transportation

"This is a declining revenue source," said Rep. Robert McColley (R., Napoleon), the bill's sponsor. "Ohioans are paying less gas tax now than they have in years past. It's actually getting below the \$8 billion mark."

The Lima News: McColley helps pass state transportation budget

McColley also chairs the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, which played a key role in crafting the bill. "House Bill 26 strikes a balance between financing Ohio's transportation priorities while being a responsible watchdog of taxpayer dollars," he said. "A lot of creative ideas and input went into the crafting of this budget, and I am confident that it will help Ohio meet its infrastructure needs in the future."

Gallipolis Daily Tribune: Ohio House passes transportation budget

"This infrastructure package is an important step to rebuild our communities," said House Finance Chair Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell). "The transportation budget makes an investment of \$7.8 billion that will maintain our roads and improve our economic competitiveness."

Cincinnati Business Courier: Cincinnati could reap big benefits from Ohio transportation bill

"We all know there's not enough money to do everything we need to do," said Rep. Doug Green, R-Mount Orab, chairman of the House's transportation committee.

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer Votes for State Transportation Budget

"I am pleased with the passage and to be a co-sponsor of the transportation budget," said Scherer. "This passage allows for us to put funding back into our state's infrastructure and continue growth all across the state of Ohio."

The Morning Journal: Ohio lawmaker's highway bill aims to reach suffering veterans

State Rep. Steve Hambley says it could help remind veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to reach out for help.

The Morning Journal: Ohio House approves bill on protective orders for dating violence

Rep. Emelia Strong Sykes, an Akron Democrat, and Rep. Nathan Manning, a North Ridgeville Republican, are sponsoring the bill.

Youngstown Vindicator: Pharmacists could offer much cheaper version of EpiPen if Ohio bill becomes law

The Blade reports the bill introduced last week by state Rep. Derek Merrin would allow substitution only with the patient's permission. Doctors still can insist on the brand-name EpiPen. Merrin, a Republican, says he sees the bill as a national model, "free-market solution" to the Mylan pricing issue.

The Morning Journal: Ohio Rep. Wes Retherford reintroduces bill aimed at curbing elder abuse

State Rep. Wes Retherford's Elder Justice Act unanimously cleared the Ohio House last year. ... Retherford, a Hamilton Republican, said changes have been made to the bill to address the issues raised.

Dayton Daily News: Butler County lawmaker re-introduces elder abuse bill

Retherford said he and now former Ohio Rep. Mike Dovilla, R-Berea, moved in 2014 to put a \$10 million appropriation for Adult Protective Services in the Mid-Biennium Review bill in anticipation of the Elder Justice Act "because that was the number one concern we heard back."

Cincinnati Enquirer: Guest column from Rep. John Becker: New right-to-work bill restores workers' rights

It's about freedom. I authored Ohio House Bill 53 to restore the freedom of association to public-sector employees. This right-to-work legislation provides public-sector workers the freedom to opt out of union representation and dues. A private sector right

to work bill will soon be introduced by one of my colleagues in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Mount Vernon News: Goodwill opens in Fredericktown

Rick Carfagna, State Representative of House District 68, was there to give the store an official welcome from the Ohio House of Representatives.

The Findlay Courier: Editorial: SNAP fraud

Two lawmakers, Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, and Sen. Matt Huffman, R-Lima, have proposed legislation that would add photos to food stamp EBT cards in an effort to reduce "trafficking," in which recipients swap SNAP benefits for money. The bills are worth consideration.

Van Wert Independent: State legislators meet with SWCD staff

State Representative Craig Riedel and State Senator Cliff Hite met this past week with representatives of the Van Wert County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at the recent annual "Conservation Partnership Meeting" held in downtown Columbus.

The Morrow County Sentinel: Mount Gilead High School seniors engage education experts in discussion

Ohio House Representative from District 87, Wesley A. Goodman also discussed state and national perspectives on education with the students.

Record Herald: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Coming together to celebrate Ohio history

It is no secret that I am a history enthusiast, especially when it comes to the stories of our state and nation. This week marked Ohio's 214th birthday, 214 years since its official induction into the United States.

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer honors essay winner

"I was honored to be able to recognize Kalila for her tremendous work in this competition and I was pleased to be able to discuss her passion for the issues she addressed in her writing piece," Scherer said.

Sentinel-Tribune: Gavarone appointed to House Finance Committee

"I am honored by the speaker's decision to appoint me to House Finance Committee," Gavarone said. "I am excited to work with Chairman Smith and the other members of the Finance Committee as we move towards delivering a budget that benefits all citizens of Ohio."

Salem News: State Representative honors Wilson as state champion

"It was an absolute privilege to honor Jared with a resolution today," Ginter said. "Jared is a tremendously talented golfer, but also a very dedicated student for which he should be commended. I believe that Jared has a very bright future ahead."

Record Herald: Peterson discusses tax policy with municipal leaders

"It's important that we, as members of the House and Senate continue to meet with the representatives of our local municipalities, especially during the budget season," said Representative Anielski. "Hearing their concerns allows us to craft a better, more responsive budget for the state of Ohio that works well on every level of governance."

WCMH: Ohio lawmakers hold first hearing on 'Judy's Law'

"The judge and the prosecutor did their job the best they could under current law," Hughes said. "It's now time for us in the legislature to do our job to ensure that victims like Judy receive the justice they deserve."

WSPD: Ohio lawmakers want harsher penalties for distracted driving

"Law enforcement at that time would determine that distracted driving was the cause of the primary or contributing factor. The law enforcement officer could then charge an additional charge on with that which would be a minor misdemeanor," Hughes says.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)

yep

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:54 PM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)

Looks good. One suggestion since the quote isn't as good.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

2/27/17 – 3/5/17

Toledo Blade: Ohio House approves \$7.8B for transportation (*can we move this?*)

"This is a declining revenue source," said Rep. Robert McColley (R., Napoleon), the bill's sponsor. "Ohioans are paying less gas tax now than they have in years past. It's actually getting below the \$8 billion mark."

The Lima News: McColley helps pass state transportation budget

McColley also chairs the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, which played a key role in crafting the bill. "House Bill 26 strikes a balance between financing Ohio's transportation priorities while being a responsible watchdog of taxpayer dollars," he

said. "A lot of creative ideas and input went into the crafting of this budget, and I am confident that it will help Ohio meet its infrastructure needs in the future."

Gallipolis Daily Tribune: Ohio House passes transportation budget

"This infrastructure package is an important step to rebuild our communities," said House Finance Chair Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell). "The transportation budget makes an investment of \$7.8 billion that will maintain our roads and improve our economic competitiveness."

Cincinnati Business Courier: Cincinnati could reap big benefits from Ohio transportation bill

"We all know there's not enough money to do everything we need to do," said Rep. Doug Green, R-Mount Orab, chairman of the House's transportation committee.

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer Votes for State Transportation Budget

"I am pleased with the passage and to be a co-sponsor of the transportation budget," said Scherer. "This passage allows for us to put funding back into our state's infrastructure and continue growth all across the state of Ohio."

The Morning Journal: Ohio lawmaker's highway bill aims to reach suffering veterans

State Rep. Steve Hambley says it could help remind veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to reach out for help.

The Morning Journal: Ohio House approves bill on protective orders for dating violence

Rep. Emelia Strong Sykes, an Akron Democrat, and Rep. Nathan Manning, a North Ridgeville Republican, are sponsoring the bill.

Youngstown Vindicator: Pharmacists could offer much cheaper version of EpiPen if Ohio bill becomes law

The Blade reports the bill introduced last week by state Rep. Derek Merrin would allow substitution only with the patient's permission. Doctors still can insist on the brand-name EpiPen. Merrin, a Republican, says he sees the bill as a national model, "free-market solution" to the Mylan pricing issue.

The Morning Journal: Ohio Rep. Wes Retherford reintroduces bill aimed at curbing elder abuse

State Rep. Wes Retherford's Elder Justice Act unanimously cleared the Ohio House last year. ... Retherford, a Hamilton Republican, said changes have been made to the bill to address the issues raised.

Dayton Daily News: Butler County lawmaker re-introduces elder abuse bill

Retherford said he and now former Ohio Rep. Mike Dovilla, R-Berea, moved in 2014 to put a \$10 million appropriation for Adult Protective Services in the Mid-Biennium

Review bill in anticipation of the Elder Justice Act "because that was the number one concern we heard back."

Cincinnati Enquirer: Guest column from Rep. John Becker: New right-to-work bill restores workers' rights

It's about freedom. I authored Ohio House Bill 53 to restore the freedom of association to public-sector employees. This right-to-work legislation provides public-sector workers the freedom to opt out of union representation and dues. A private sector right to work bill will soon be introduced by one of my colleagues in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Mount Vernon News: Goodwill opens in Fredericktown

Rick Carfagna, State Representative of House District 68, was there to give the store an official welcome from the Ohio House of Representatives.

The Findlay Courier: Editorial: SNAP fraud

Two lawmakers, Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, and Sen. Matt Huffman, R-Lima, have proposed legislation that would add photos to food stamp EBT cards in an effort to reduce "trafficking," in which recipients swap SNAP benefits for money. The bills are worth consideration.

Van Wert Independent: State legislators meet with SWCD staff

State Representative Craig Riedel and State Senator Cliff Hite met this past week with representatives of the Van Wert County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at the recent annual "Conservation Partnership Meeting" held in downtown Columbus.

The Morrow County Sentinel: Mount Gilead High School seniors engage education experts in discussion

Ohio House Representative from District 87, Wesley A. Goodman also discussed state and national perspectives on education with the students.

Record Herald: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Coming together to celebrate Ohio history

It is no secret that I am a history enthusiast, especially when it comes to the stories of our state and nation. This week marked Ohio's 214th birthday, 214 years since its official induction into the United States.

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer honors essay winner

"I was honored to be able to recognize Kalila for her tremendous work in this competition and I was pleased to be able to discuss her passion for the issues she addressed in her writing piece," Scherer said.

Sentinel-Tribune: Gavarone appointed to House Finance Committee

"I am honored by the speaker's decision to appoint me to House Finance Committee," Gavarone said. "I am excited to work with Chairman Smith and the other members of the

Finance Committee as we move towards delivering a budget that benefits all citizens of Ohio."

Salem News: State Representative honors Wilson as state champion

"It was an absolute privilege to honor Jared with a resolution today," Ginter said. "Jared is a tremendously talented golfer, but also a very dedicated student for which he should be commended. I believe that Jared has a very bright future ahead."

Record Herald: Peterson discusses tax policy with municipal leaders

"It's important that we, as members of the House and Senate continue to meet with the representatives of our local municipalities, especially during the budget season," said Representative Anielski. "Hearing their concerns allows us to craft a better, more responsive budget for the state of Ohio that works well on every level of governance."

WCMH: Ohio lawmakers hold first hearing on 'Judy's Law'

"The judge and the prosecutor did their job the best they could under current law," Hughes said. "It's now time for us in the legislature to do our job to ensure that victims like Judy receive the justice they deserve."

WSPD: Ohio lawmakers want harsher penalties for distracted driving

"Law enforcement at that time would determine that distracted driving was the cause of the primary or contributing factor. The law enforcement officer could then charge an additional charge on with that which would be a minor misdemeanor," Hughes says.

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 4:54 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)

Looks good. One suggestion since the quote isn't as good.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (sending at 11)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

2/27/17 – 3/5/17

Toledo Blade: Ohio House approves \$7.8B for transportation (can we move this?)

"This is a declining revenue source," said Rep. Robert McColley (R., Napoleon), the bill's sponsor. "Ohioans are paying less gas tax now than they have in years past. It's actually getting below the \$8 billion mark."

The Lima News: McColley helps pass state transportation budget

McColley also chairs the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, which played a key role in crafting the bill. "House Bill 26 strikes a balance between financing Ohio's transportation priorities while being a responsible watchdog of taxpayer dollars," he said. "A lot of creative ideas and input went into the crafting of this budget, and I am confident that it will help Ohio meet its infrastructure needs in the future."

Gallipolis Daily Tribune: Ohio House passes transportation budget

"This infrastructure package is an important step to rebuild our communities," said House Finance Chair Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell). "The transportation budget makes an investment of \$7.8 billion that will maintain our roads and improve our economic competitiveness."

Cincinnati Business Courier: Cincinnati could reap big benefits from Ohio transportation bill

"We all know there's not enough money to do everything we need to do," said Rep. Doug Green, R-Mount Orab, chairman of the House's transportation committee.

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer Votes for State Transportation Budget

"I am pleased with the passage and to be a co-sponsor of the transportation budget," said Scherer. "This passage allows for us to put funding back into our state's infrastructure and continue growth all across the state of Ohio."

The Morning Journal: Ohio lawmaker's highway bill aims to reach suffering veterans

State Rep. Steve Hambley says it could help remind veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to reach out for help.

The Morning Journal: Ohio House approves bill on protective orders for dating violence

Rep. Emelia Strong Sykes, an Akron Democrat, and Rep. Nathan Manning, a North Ridgeville Republican, are sponsoring the bill.

Youngstown Vindicator: Pharmacists could offer much cheaper version of EpiPen if Ohio bill becomes law

The Blade reports the bill introduced last week by state Rep. Derek Merrin would allow substitution only with the patient's permission. Doctors still can insist on the brand-name EpiPen. Merrin, a Republican, says he sees the bill as a national model, "free-market solution" to the Mylan pricing issue.

The Morning Journal: Ohio Rep. Wes Retherford reintroduces bill aimed at curbing elder abuse

State Rep. Wes Retherford's Elder Justice Act unanimously cleared the Ohio House last year. ... Retherford, a Hamilton Republican, said changes have been made to the bill to address the issues raised.

Dayton Daily News: Butler County lawmaker re-introduces elder abuse bill

Retherford said he and now former Ohio Rep. Mike Dovilla, R-Berea, moved in 2014 to put a \$10 million appropriation for Adult Protective Services in the Mid-Biennium Review bill in anticipation of the Elder Justice Act "because that was the number one concern we heard back."

Cincinnati Enquirer: Guest column from Rep. John Becker: New right-to-work bill restores workers' rights

It's about freedom. I authored Ohio House Bill 53 to restore the freedom of association to public-sector employees. This right-to-work legislation provides public-sector workers the freedom to opt out of union representation and dues. A private sector right

to work bill will soon be introduced by one of my colleagues in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Mount Vernon News: Goodwill opens in Fredericktown

Rick Carfagna, State Representative of House District 68, was there to give the store an official welcome from the Ohio House of Representatives.

The Findlay Courier: Editorial: SNAP fraud

Two lawmakers, Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, and Sen. Matt Huffman, R-Lima, have proposed legislation that would add photos to food stamp EBT cards in an effort to reduce "trafficking," in which recipients swap SNAP benefits for money. The bills are worth consideration.

Van Wert Independent: State legislators meet with SWCD staff

State Representative Craig Riedel and State Senator Cliff Hite met this past week with representatives of the Van Wert County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at the recent annual "Conservation Partnership Meeting" held in downtown Columbus.

The Morrow County Sentinel: Mount Gilead High School seniors engage education experts in discussion

Ohio House Representative from District 87, Wesley A. Goodman also discussed state and national perspectives on education with the students.

Record Herald: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Coming together to celebrate Ohio history

It is no secret that I am a history enthusiast, especially when it comes to the stories of our state and nation. This week marked Ohio's 214th birthday, 214 years since its official induction into the United States.

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer honors essay winner

"I was honored to be able to recognize Kalila for her tremendous work in this competition and I was pleased to be able to discuss her passion for the issues she addressed in her writing piece," Scherer said.

Sentinel-Tribune: Gavarone appointed to House Finance Committee

"I am honored by the speaker's decision to appoint me to House Finance Committee," Gavarone said. "I am excited to work with Chairman Smith and the other members of the Finance Committee as we move towards delivering a budget that benefits all citizens of Ohio."

Salem News: State Representative honors Wilson as state champion

"It was an absolute privilege to honor Jared with a resolution today," Ginter said. "Jared is a tremendously talented golfer, but also a very dedicated student for which he should be commended. I believe that Jared has a very bright future ahead."

Record Herald: Peterson discusses tax policy with municipal leaders

"It's important that we, as members of the House and Senate continue to meet with the representatives of our local municipalities, especially during the budget season," said Representative Anielski. "Hearing their concerns allows us to craft a better, more responsive budget for the state of Ohio that works well on every level of governance."

WCMH: Ohio lawmakers hold first hearing on 'Judy's Law'

"The judge and the prosecutor did their job the best they could under current law," Hughes said. "It's now time for us in the legislature to do our job to ensure that victims like Judy receive the justice they deserve."

WSPD: Ohio lawmakers want harsher penalties for distracted driving

"Law enforcement at that time would determine that distracted driving was the cause of the primary or contributing factor. The law enforcement officer could then charge an additional charge on with that which would be a minor misdemeanor," Hughes says.

From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 4:56 PM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 2/27/17 – 3/5/17



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

2/27/17 – 3/5/17

The Lima News: McColley helps pass state transportation budget

McColley also chairs the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, which played a key role in crafting the bill. "House Bill 26 strikes a balance between financing Ohio's transportation priorities while being a responsible watchdog of taxpayer dollars," he said. "A lot of creative ideas and input went into the crafting of this budget, and I am confident that it will help Ohio meet its infrastructure needs in the future."

Gallipolis Daily Tribune: Ohio House passes transportation budget

"This infrastructure package is an important step to rebuild our communities," said House Finance Chair Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell). "The transportation budget makes an investment of \$7.8 billion that will maintain our roads and improve our economic competitiveness."

Cincinnati Business Courier: Cincinnati could reap big benefits from Ohio transportation bill

"We all know there's not enough money to do everything we need to do," said Rep. Doug Green, R-Mount Orab, chairman of the House's transportation committee.

Toledo Blade: Ohio House approves \$7.8B for transportation

"This is a declining revenue source," said Rep. Robert McColley (R., Napoleon), the bill's sponsor. "Ohioans are paying less gas tax now than they have in years past. It's actually getting below the \$8 billion mark."

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer Votes for State Transportation Budget

"I am pleased with the passage and to be a co-sponsor of the transportation budget," said Scherer. "This passage allows for us to put funding back into our state's infrastructure and continue growth all across the state of Ohio."

The Morning Journal: Ohio lawmaker's highway bill aims to reach suffering veterans

State Rep. Steve Hambley says it could help remind veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to reach out for help.

The Morning Journal: Ohio House approves bill on protective orders for dating violence

Rep. Emelia Strong Sykes, an Akron Democrat, and Rep. Nathan Manning, a North Ridgeville Republican, are sponsoring the bill.

Youngstown Vindicator: Pharmacists could offer much cheaper version of EpiPen if Ohio bill becomes law

The Blade reports the bill introduced last week by state Rep. Derek Merrin would allow substitution only with the patient's permission. Doctors still can insist on the brand-name EpiPen. Merrin, a Republican, says he sees the bill as a national model, "free-market solution" to the Mylan pricing issue.

The Morning Journal: Ohio Rep. Wes Retherford reintroduces bill aimed at curbing elder abuse

State Rep. Wes Retherford's Elder Justice Act unanimously cleared the Ohio House last year. ... Retherford, a Hamilton Republican, said changes have been made to the bill to address the issues raised.

Dayton Daily News: Butler County lawmaker re-introduces elder abuse bill

Retherford said he and now former Ohio Rep. Mike Dovilla, R-Berea, moved in 2014 to put a \$10 million appropriation for Adult Protective Services in the Mid-Biennium Review bill in anticipation of the Elder Justice Act "because that was the number one concern we heard back."

Cincinnati Enquirer: Guest column from Rep. John Becker: New right-to-work bill restores workers' rights

It's about freedom. I authored Ohio House Bill 53 to restore the freedom of association to public-sector employees. This right-to-work legislation provides public-sector workers the freedom to opt out of union representation and dues. A private sector right to work bill will soon be introduced by one of my colleagues in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Mount Vernon News: Goodwill opens in Fredericktown

Rick Carfagna, State Representative of House District 68, was there to give the store an official welcome from the Ohio House of Representatives.

The Findlay Courier: Editorial: SNAP fraud

Two lawmakers, Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, and Sen. Matt Huffman, R-Lima, have proposed legislation that would add photos to food stamp EBT cards in an effort to

reduce "trafficking," in which recipients swap SNAP benefits for money. The bills are worth consideration.

Van Wert Independent: State legislators meet with SWCD staff

State Representative Craig Riedel and State Senator Cliff Hite met this past week with representatives of the Van Wert County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at the recent annual "Conservation Partnership Meeting" held in downtown Columbus.

The Morrow County Sentinel: Mount Gilead High School seniors engage education experts in discussion

Ohio House Representative from District 87, Wesley A. Goodman also discussed state and national perspectives on education with the students.

Record Herald: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Coming together to celebrate Ohio history

It is no secret that I am a history enthusiast, especially when it comes to the stories of our state and nation. This week marked Ohio's 214th birthday, 214 years since its official induction into the United States.

Circleville Herald: Rep. Scherer honors essay winner

"I was honored to be able to recognize Kalila for her tremendous work in this competition and I was pleased to be able to discuss her passion for the issues she addressed in her writing piece," Scherer said.

Sentinel-Tribune: Gavarone appointed to House Finance Committee

"I am honored by the speaker's decision to appoint me to House Finance Committee," Gavarone said. "I am excited to work with Chairman Smith and the other members of the Finance Committee as we move towards delivering a budget that benefits all citizens of Ohio."

Salem News: State Representative honors Wilson as state champion

"It was an absolute privilege to honor Jared with a resolution today," Ginter said. "Jared is a tremendously talented golfer, but also a very dedicated student for which he should be commended. I believe that Jared has a very bright future ahead."

Record Herald: Peterson discusses tax policy with municipal leaders

"It's important that we, as members of the House and Senate continue to meet with the representatives of our local municipalities, especially during the budget season," said Representative Anielski. "Hearing their concerns allows us to craft a better, more responsive budget for the state of Ohio that works well on every level of governance."

WCMH: Ohio lawmakers hold first hearing on 'Judy's Law'

"The judge and the prosecutor did their job the best they could under current law," Hughes said. "It's now time for us in the legislature to do our job to ensure that victims like Judy receive the justice they deserve."

WSPD: Ohio lawmakers want harsher penalties for distracted driving

"Law enforcement at that time would determine that distracted driving was the cause of the primary or contributing factor. The law enforcement officer could then charge an additional charge on with that which would be a minor misdemeanor," Hughes says.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 11:35 AM
To: Roegner, Kristina
Subject: RE: Rep Roegner

Thanks Representative,

Here is the op-ed by Governor Walker that we just discussed. It was actually printed in the New York Times, not the Washington Post. My mistake. So that could be an option too.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/03/opinion/against-protests-republicans-must-stand-strong.html>

Against Protests, Republicans Must Stand Strong

By **SCOTT WALKER** MARCH 3, 2017

MADISON, Wis. — Over the last few weeks, angry voters have greeted Republican congressmen in districts around the country. As someone who has confronted similar crowds before — and lived to tell about it — I have a simple message for those lawmakers: It's put-up or shut-up time.

Those are the exact words I told my fellow Republicans in the State Legislature in 2010, after we made big promises on the campaign trail. It was time to govern, and we did just that by taking on public-sector unions that had too much control over the government. In response, 100,000 protesters descended on the Capitol, while others protested at the executive residence and even my house.

Despite the intimidation, we stood strong in our fight for taxpayers. It paid off, and today the budget is balanced, taxes are down and more people in the state are working than ever.

Republicans in Washington need to do the same when it comes to Obamacare, tax reform and the rest of their agenda. Yes, liberals will turn out to protest. But don't let the left shape the debate. Explain that the centerpiece in the Republican agenda — returning

authority to the states — is the best solution to our nation's problems.

That's the message the nation's governors, including 33 Republicans, carried to the White House and congressional Republicans this week. I personally made the case for returning authority to the states — and more important to the people — to President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and congressional Republicans.

This is how our founders envisioned our country, and it's a cause that was championed by President Ronald Reagan and others in both parties who know government is best when close to the governed. Sadly, the federal government has put up barriers to reform, which is why we're excited about a new administration and Congress willing to partner with the states.

This is not just about touting Republican ideology — it is a practical responsibility to the voters. Americans were given a choice in November: Where do you want your dollar going? To your local school or to Washington? Caring for the needy in your community or to Washington? Their clear answer in 2016 was "not Washington."

But it won't be easy. Returning authority to the states will require congressional Republicans to show the courage of their convictions.

In Wisconsin, we saw how far protesters will go. My wife and I received death threats; protesters dressed as zombies once interrupted a ceremony while I was talking with Special Olympians. While not easy, I decided to take the high road: We learned how to make positive arguments, to communicate constantly and to remind people of our promises. And it worked.

Republicans in Congress should heed these lessons. Giving states their power back will lead to outrage because liberals will try to defend the enormous size of the federal government. But going big and bold will pay off. For example, repealing Obamacare is just one part of the agenda; returning authority to the states is a crucial part of how to reform the nation's health care system.

Or take my battle with Washington to test people seeking public assistance for drug use. They should be employed or enrolled in job

training, looking for work five times a week and able to pass a drug test. If they fail, we would get them into rehab and into the work force.

This is not, as some critics would have it, about punishing people. It is about helping them connect with employers. Wisconsin employers are begging for workers with basic skills who are drug-free. As I never tire of telling crowds, if Washington will get out of the way, we can help Wisconsinites, and make sure public assistance is a trampoline — not a hammock.

Other governors have shown the courage to make major reforms like this — Terry Branstad of Iowa on collective bargaining, Eric Greitens of Missouri and Matt Bevin of Kentucky with right-to-work laws — and will do so much more if our allies at the federal level stand with us.

If they do, we can get taxpayers more of their money, rather than pennies on the dollar from the federal government. Republicans, let's face the voters — and get to work.

From: Roegner, Kristina
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 11:31 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Rep Roegner

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <Kristina.Roegner@ohiohouse.gov>
Date: March 6, 2017 at 9:51:59 AM EST
To: <james.taranto@wsj.com>
Subject: Rep Roegner

Dear Mr. Taranto,
As a State Representative and the Chairwoman of Federalism Committee in the Ohio House, I've noticed a renewed interest in federalism. Our friends from the Wisconsin House of

Representatives visited our Buckeye state recently and the discussion of Federalism deepened. Together we noticed the desire to return to the balance of power our founding fathers envisioned, growing like a wave across this nation.

Recognizing that this is a hot topic and would be of interest to your readers, I submitted an Op-ed, together with WI state rep Tyler Vorpapel, and was surprised that it was not picked up by the WSJ. I've attached it here for your review. I would value your feedback as I desire to write what would be helpful to you and your readers,

Respectfully,
Kristina

Federalism:

*Trump Administration offers opportunity to restore
state's constitutional rights*

In shaping our Republic, our founding fathers established an innovative and elegant balance in government, not only between the three branches of government but also between the national government and the states. This concept is known as federalism. Particularly in the past century, our federal government has grown ever more powerful at the expense of state sovereignty. With the new Trump administration, there exists a precious window of opportunity to restore that balance and strengthen our nation as a whole.

The “Articles of Confederation” drafted in 1776, created a “firm league of friendship” between the 13 independent states. However, the Congress it created was frail. It could declare war and peace; but it was deficient of even the power to levy taxes to pay for expenses. After the Revolutionary war ended, the states commenced quarreling and it was obvious that if the Union were to survive, they would need a more robust Constitution.

Out of the Philadelphia Convention in 1787, emerged our current Constitution. It outlined a stronger Congress, but also a thoughtfully crafted balance of shared power between a central government and the states. A couple of years later, the 10th amendment clarified that any powers not specifically given to the federal government in the Constitution was to be reserved for the states. Thus was born the concept of Federalism. Unfortunately, not long thereafter, the pendulum started to swing in favor of the federal government and the healthy balance of power between the national and state government eroded.

In 1913 US Senators were, for the first time, elected by popular vote; suddenly silencing the direct voice the state legislatures had in Congress. Prior to that year, state legislatures had appointed US Senators. Over time, Congress has usurped power from the states by leveraging: the “Elasticity Clause”, the “Supremacy

Clause”, and a loose interpretation of the “Commerce Clause”. Finally, federal government has leveraged its power of the purse to coerce states into compliance with its plans; for example, holding out federal dollars to entice states to expand Medicaid, to adopt Common Core, and often withholding federal funds until specific non-related legislation is passed. This trend has led to an overbearing and out of touch federal government; one that regularly oversteps its constitutionally defined roll, but there is hope.

The winds of change are blowing and in the last few years there are signs of a resurgence of federalism across the states. In 2010 over 20 states filed suit against the federal government claiming that the Affordable Care Act was an overreach. In 2016 several states joined together to challenge the Obama administration’s overbearing Clean Power Plan. It is not only the state governments, but also the people across this country demanding change. A nationwide poll conducted by Frank Luntz and the National Governors Association in January revealed that a staggering 71 percent believe state governments are serving them better than the federal government, which they view with resentment, skepticism and cynicism. When it comes to administering government programs such as health care, Medicaid, education and infrastructure, 70 percent preferred either state/federal share control or for the states to control it entirely. The number one reason cited in the poll was, “State leaders are more responsive because they are closer to their constituents”.

This resurgence coincides nicely with the Trump Administration, as they convey clear signals of a willingness to return the power and decision making authority to those who know their citizenry best, the states. For example, at CPAC the new Director of the EPA, Scott Pruitt, stated, "What really matters a lot is federalism. We are going to once again pay attention to the states across this country." He summarized their approach as, "Process, rule of law, and cooperative federalism; that is going to be the heart of how we do business at the EPA." This message is echoed across the Trump Administration, resulting in a rare window of opportunity to restore the balance of power between the federal government and the states, returning to the constitutional principle of federalism.

President Trump, in a recent meeting with governors, reiterated his desire to "make the states laboratories of democracy once again" and his message is resonating with the people of this country. While he mentioned in his State of the Union Speech that he'd like state governors to create their own Medicaid program, we believe that duty lies with the state legislatures, where laws are created and funds are appropriated.

State legislatures are looking to lead responsibly in areas, which in the past we have deferred to the federal government. Several states have established standing committees on "Federalism and Interstate Relations",

to restore a focus on issues positioned in the crosshairs of federal and state jurisdiction. Last week state legislative leaders from Ohio and Wisconsin met to discuss this very topic. It is our goal is to work with the other 48 states and discuss what federalism can do for all of us, and more importantly we want to proactively push Congress and the Administration to follow through and empower the states.

The states now have a true ally in the White House in President Trump. States need to be ready to support the Trump Administration's efforts of decentralization. We are the laboratories of democracy and intimately know our constituencies better than those in Washington possibly could. This point in history affords a remarkable opportunity to once again balance the scales when it comes to governing authority. As state legislatures we stand ready and willing to answer the call and are encouraged that we have a president wise enough and willing to return to our founding father's constitutional vision of federalism.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Roegner, Kristina
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 6:50 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Re: Rep Roegner

I like it! It is a giant call to action !
Yes, let's strip out the constitutional background (as much as I find it interesting that we are just returning to what the founding fathers envisioned 240 years ago, and have more of a call to action to our fellow legislators across the nation. Let me know what you and Kit decide to do
Thanks again for your help on this!
TINA

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2017, at 11:34 AM, Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Thanks Representative,

Here is the op-ed by Governor Walker that we just discussed. It was actually printed in the New York Times, not the Washington Post. My mistake. So that could be an option too.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/03/opinion/against-protests-republicans-must-stand-strong.html>

Against Protests, Republicans Must Stand Strong

By **SCOTT WALKER** MARCH 3, 2017

MADISON, Wis. — Over the last few weeks, angry voters have greeted Republican congressmen in districts around the country. As someone who has confronted similar crowds before — and lived to tell about it — I have a simple message for those lawmakers: It's put-up or shut-up time.

Those are the exact words I told my fellow Republicans in the State Legislature in 2010, after we made big promises on the campaign trail. It was time

to govern, and we did just that by taking on public-sector unions that had too much control over the government. In response, 100,000 protesters descended on the Capitol, while others protested at the executive residence and even my house.

Despite the intimidation, we stood strong in our fight for taxpayers. It paid off, and today the budget is balanced, taxes are down and more people in the state are working than ever.

Republicans in Washington need to do the same when it comes to Obamacare, tax reform and the rest of their agenda. Yes, liberals will turn out to protest. But don't let the left shape the debate. Explain that the centerpiece in the Republican agenda — returning authority to the states — is the best solution to our nation's problems.

That's the message the nation's governors, including 33 Republicans, carried to the White House and congressional Republicans this week. I personally made the case for returning authority to the states — and more important to the people — to President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and congressional Republicans.

This is how our founders envisioned our country, and it's a cause that was championed by President Ronald Reagan and others in both parties who know government is best when close to the governed. Sadly, the federal government has put up barriers to reform, which is why we're excited about a new administration and Congress willing to partner with the states.

his is not just about touting Republican ideology — it is a practical responsibility to the voters. Americans were given a choice in November: Where do you want your dollar going? To your local school or to Washington? Caring for the needy in your community or to Washington? Their clear answer in 2016 was “not Washington.”

But it won't be easy. Returning authority to the states will require congressional Republicans to show the courage of their convictions.

In Wisconsin, we saw how far protesters will go. My wife and I received death threats; protesters dressed as zombies once interrupted a ceremony while I was talking with Special Olympians. While not easy, I decided to take the high road: We learned how to make positive arguments, to communicate constantly and to remind people of our promises. And it worked.

Republicans in Congress should heed these lessons. Giving states their power back will lead to outrage because liberals will try to defend the enormous size of the federal government. But going big and bold will pay off. For example, repealing Obamacare is just one part of the agenda; returning authority to the states is a crucial part of how to reform the nation's health care system.

Or take my battle with Washington to test people seeking public assistance for drug use. They should be employed or enrolled in job training, looking for work five times a week and able to pass a drug test. If they fail, we would get them into rehab and into the work force.

This is not, as some critics would have it, about punishing people. It is about helping them connect with employers. Wisconsin employers are begging for workers with basic skills who are drug-free. As I never tire of telling crowds, if Washington will get out of the way, we can help Wisconsinites, and make sure public assistance is a trampoline — not a hammock.

Other governors have shown the courage to make major reforms like this — Terry Branstad of Iowa on collective bargaining, Eric Greitens of Missouri and Matt Bevin of Kentucky with right-to-work laws — and will do so much more if our allies at the federal level stand with us.

If they do, we can get taxpayers more of their money, rather than pennies on the dollar from the federal government. Republicans, let's face the voters — and get to work.

From: Roegner, Kristina
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 11:31 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Rep Roegner

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <Kristina.Roegner@ohiohouse.gov>
Date: March 6, 2017 at 9:51:59 AM EST
To: <james.taranto@wsj.com>
Subject: Rep Roegner

Dear Mr. Taranto,
As a State Representative and the Chairwoman of Federalism Committee in the Ohio House, I've noticed a renewed interest in federalism. Our friends from the Wisconsin House of Representatives visited our Buckeye state recently and the discussion of Federalism deepened. Together we noticed the desire to return to the balance of power our founding fathers envisioned, growing like a wave across this nation.

Recognizing that this is a hot topic and would be of interest to your readers, I submitted an Op-ed, together with WI state rep Tyler Vorpapel, and was surprised that it was not picked up by the WSJ. I've attached it here for your review. I would value your feedback as I desire to write what would be helpful to you and your readers,

Respectfully,
Kristina

Federalism:

*Trump Administration offers
opportunity to restore state's
constitutional rights*

In shaping our Republic, our founding fathers established an innovative and elegant balance in government, not only between the three branches of government but also between the national government and the states. This concept is known as federalism. Particularly in the past century, our federal government has grown ever more powerful at the expense of state sovereignty. With the new Trump administration, there exists a precious window of opportunity to restore that balance and strengthen our nation as a whole.

The “Articles of Confederation” drafted in 1776, created a “firm league of friendship” between the 13 independent states. However, the Congress it created

was frail. It could declare war and peace; but it was deficient of even the power to levy taxes to pay for expenses. After the Revolutionary war ended, the states commenced quarreling and it was obvious that if the Union were to survive, they would need a more robust Constitution.

Out of the Philadelphia Convention in 1787, emerged our current Constitution. It outlined a stronger Congress, but also a thoughtfully crafted balance of shared power between a central government and the states. A couple of years later, the 10th amendment clarified that any powers not specifically given to the federal government in the Constitution was to be reserved for the states. Thus was born the concept of Federalism. Unfortunately, not long thereafter, the pendulum started to swing in favor of the federal government and the healthy balance of power between the national and state government eroded.

In 1913 US Senators were, for the first time, elected by popular vote; suddenly silencing the direct voice the state legislatures had in Congress. Prior to

that year, state legislatures had appointed US Senators. Over time, Congress has usurped power from the states by leveraging: the “Elasticity Clause”, the “Supremacy Clause”, and a loose interpretation of the “Commerce Clause”. Finally, federal government has leveraged its power of the purse to coerce states into compliance with its plans; for example, holding out federal dollars to entice states to expand Medicaid, to adopt Common Core, and often withholding federal funds until specific non-related legislation is passed. This trend has led to an overbearing and out of touch federal government; one that regularly oversteps its constitutionally defined roll, but there is hope.

The winds of change are blowing and in the last few years there are signs of a resurgence of federalism across the states. In 2010 over 20 states filed suit against the federal government claiming that the Affordable Care Act was an overreach. In 2016 several states joined together to challenge the Obama administration’s overbearing Clean Power Plan. It is not only the state governments, but also the people across this country demanding change. A

nationwide poll conducted by Frank Luntz and the National Governors Association in January revealed that a staggering 71 percent believe state governments are serving them better than the federal government, which they view with resentment, skepticism and cynicism. When it comes to administering government programs such as health care, Medicaid, education and infrastructure, 70 percent preferred either state/federal share control or for the states to control it entirely. The number one reason cited in the poll was, "State leaders are more responsive because they are closer to their constituents".

This resurgence coincides nicely with the Trump Administration, as they convey clear signals of a willingness to return the power and decision making authority to those who know their citizenry best, the states. For example, at CPAC the new Director of the EPA, Scott Pruitt, stated, "What really matters a lot is federalism. We are going to once again pay attention to the states across this country." He summarized their approach as, "Process, rule of law, and cooperative federalism; that is going to be the heart of how we do business at

the EPA.” This message is echoed across the Trump Administration, resulting in a rare window of opportunity to restore the balance of power between the federal government and the states, returning to the constitutional principle of federalism.

President Trump, in a recent meeting with governors, reiterated his desire to “make the states laboratories of democracy once again” and his message is resonating with the people of this country. While he mentioned in his State of the Union Speech that he’d like state governors to create their own Medicaid program, we believe that duty lies with the state legislatures, where laws are created and funds are appropriated.

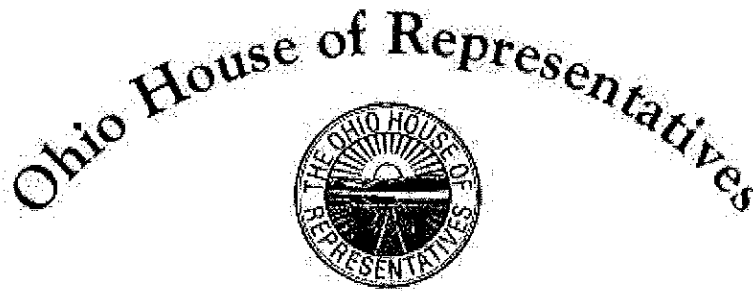
State legislatures are looking to lead responsibly in areas, which in the past we have deferred to the federal government. Several states have established standing committees on “Federalism and Interstate Relations”, to restore a focus on issues positioned in the crosshairs of federal and state jurisdiction. Last week state legislative leaders from Ohio and Wisconsin met to

discuss this very topic. It is our goal is to work with the other 48 states and discuss what federalism can do for all of us, and more importantly we want to proactively push Congress and the Administration to follow through and empower the states.

The states now have a true ally in the White House in President Trump. States need to be ready to support the Trump Administration's efforts of decentralization. We are the laboratories of democracy and intimately know our constituencies better than those in Washington possibly could. This point in history affords a remarkable opportunity to once again balance the scales when it comes to governing authority. As state legislatures we stand ready and willing to answer the call and are encouraged that we have a president wise enough and willing to return to our founding father's constitutional vision of federalism.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 11:35 AM
To: House_All
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Requiring Exempt State Employees to Pay Healthcare Premiums.pdf



Representative Derek Merrin

47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: March 20, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

Sincerely,





Ohio House of Representatives

Representative Derek Merrin

47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: March 20, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

Sincerely,



Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives
House District 47.
Office (614) 466-1731
Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

From: Springhetti, Blake

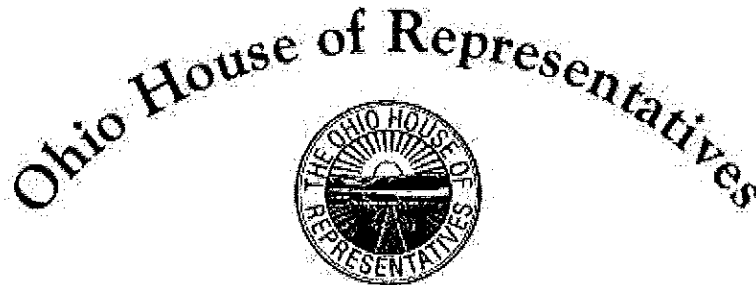
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:18 AM

To: House_All

Subject: Reminder: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life

Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Requiring Exempt State Employees to Pay Healthcare Premiums.pdf

**Reminder: The deadline to co-sponsor is
tomorrow at 5pm**



Representative Derek Merrin

47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: March 20, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental,
Vision, and Life
Insurance Premiums

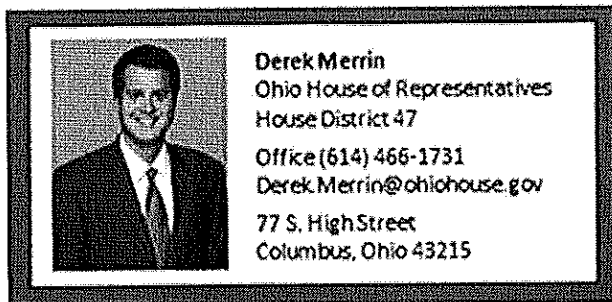
I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

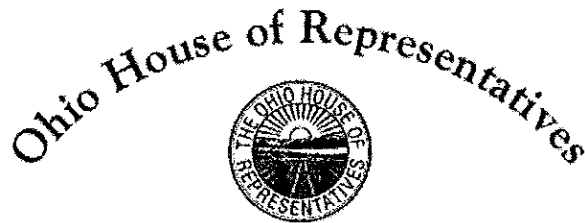
Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.

Sincerely,





Representative Derek Merrin

47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: March 20, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

Sincerely,



Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives
House District 47
Office (614) 466-1731
Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:51 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Conference Committee Approves Transportation Budget with 4-2 Vote](#)
- [Poll Finds 2016 Ideological Divisions Remain among Ohio Voters](#)
- [Kasich Addresses AHCA Withdrawal on CNN Sunday, Calls Divisiveness 'Pathetic'](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Agenda with Rare Lack of Holds from Legislators](#)
- [JCARR Hears Rules Changes on Shaving, Hunting, Case Management, Casinos](#)
- [Shale Gas Production Ends Three-Year Climb](#)
- [Kasich Administration Announces \\$4.3 million in New Tax Credits](#)
- [OSU Touts New Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus](#)
- [Stateline: Lawmakers Look to Curb Foreign Influence in State Elections](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ECOT](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Ohio GOP](#)
- [Ohio Digest: Buckeye Institute](#)
- [Campus Chronicle: Lanzinger Papers](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Commercial Dockets](#)
- [Legislative Schedule Changes](#)

© 2017 Hannah News Service, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Unauthorized redistribution or reproduction prohibited.

Hannah News Service, Inc. | 21 W. Broad Street, Suite 1000, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614.227.5820 | www.hannah.com

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Springhetti, Blake
Subject: RE: For Review

Hi Blake – a few edits.



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
March 29, 2017

Contact: Blake Springhetti
(614) 466-1731

DRAFT ONLY

Rep. Merrin's Bill Ends State Employees' Insurance Free Ride

COLUMBUS— State Representative Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) introduced House Bill XXX, which would require many state employees to effectively pay 15 percent of the total cost for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance premiums. The legislation impacts exempt state employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements, including state legislators, agency directors, and executive staff.

State employees currently contribute zero percent toward their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits while contributing 15% toward their medical insurance premiums. House Bill XXX requires the same percentage be paid for dental, vision, and life insurance that employees pay for their medical insurance premiums.

"The free ride for state employees must end. Many private-sector employees are not even offered dental and vision benefits – let alone absolutely free," said Representative Merrin.

House Bill XXX is projected to save taxpayers over \$2.6 million annually. Also, the legislation instructs the state to seek the same provision while negotiating future collective bargaining agreements that govern about 35,900 unionized state employees that pay zero percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. If unionized state employees paid 15 percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums, the state would save an additional \$4.7 million annually.

"State employees already receive a great bargain by paying only 15 percent for their medical insurance," Merrin said. "At the very least, they should pay 15 percent for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance benefits too."

Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst with The Buckeye Institute, said, "Asking state employees to put some 'skin in the game' like practically all private sector workers is not too much to ask. We must contain health care costs and assure fairness for all Ohioans."

Eligible state employees qualify for dental, vision, and life insurance after completing one year of service with the state. As of March, 2017, approximately 13,000 exempt state employees were covered under the state's dental, vision, and basic life insurance plans.

House Bill XXX is co-sponsored by 15 state representatives and awaits committee designation.

For more information, please contact Blake Springhetti at 614-466-1731 or Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov.

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: For Review

Hello Brad,

Please see the attached press release, we plan to send this out once the legislation receives a bill number today.

Kind regards,

Blake Springhetti
Legislative Aide
State Representative Derek Merrin
47th House District
77 S. High St., 11th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215
Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov | (614) 466-1731

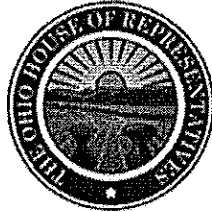
From: Miller, Brad

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:48 PM

To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora

CC: Springhetti, Blake

Subject: PR ALERT: Merrin HB 169 (sending at 410)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
March 29, 2017

Contact: Blake Springhetti
(614) 466-1731

Rep. Merrin's Bill Ends State Employees' Insurance Free Ride

COLUMBUS—State Representative Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) introduced House Bill 169, which would require many state employees to effectively pay 15 percent of the total cost for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance premiums. The legislation impacts exempt state employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements, including state legislators, agency directors, and executive staff.

State employees currently contribute zero percent toward their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits while contributing 15 percent toward their medical insurance premiums. House Bill 169 requires the same percentage be paid for dental, vision, and life insurance that employees pay for their medical insurance premiums.

"The free ride for state employees must end. Many private-sector employees are not even offered dental and vision benefits – let alone absolutely free," said Representative Merrin.

House Bill 169 is projected to save taxpayers over \$2.6 million annually. Also, the legislation instructs the state to seek the same provision while negotiating future collective bargaining agreements that govern about 35,900 unionized state employees that pay zero percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. If unionized state employees paid 15 percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums, the state would save an additional \$4.7 million annually.

"State employees already receive a great bargain by paying only 15 percent for their medical insurance," Merrin said. "At the very least, they should pay 15 percent for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance benefits too."

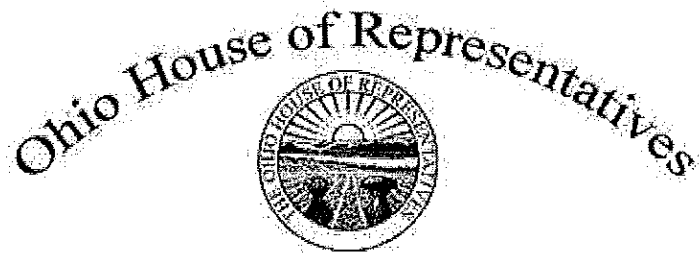
Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst with The Buckeye Institute, said, "Asking state employees to put some 'skin in the game' like practically all private sector workers is not too much to ask. We must contain health care costs and assure fairness for all Ohioans."

Eligible state employees qualify for dental, vision, and life insurance after completing one year of service with the state. As of March, 2017, approximately 13,000 exempt state employees were covered under the state's dental, vision, and basic life insurance plans.

House Bill 169 is co-sponsored by 15 state representatives and awaits committee designation.

For more information, please contact Blake Springhetti at 614-466-1731 or Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov.

From: Rosenberger, Cliff
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 11:33 AM
To: Rosenberger, Cliff
Subject: MEMO: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit
Attachments: ALECSpringTaskForce.pdf



Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

Memorandum

To: All House Republican Members
From: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Date: April 11, 2017
Re: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

As many of you already know, the American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

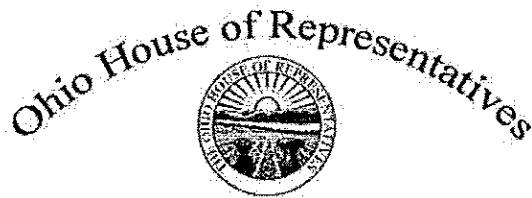
On May 5, 2017, ALEC will be hosting their Spring Task Force Summit, located in Charlotte, North Carolina. This one-day summit will give participants the opportunity to collaborate with legislative leaders from across the country on some of the following issues:

- Civil Justice

- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Education and Workforce Development
- Energy, Environment and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

I can personally attest to the benefit of working with leaders from across our great country to find solutions to common issues. If you are interested in joining ALEC and participating in the 2017 Spring Task Force Summit, I encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.alec.org/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yapple in my office at Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-7959.



Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

Memorandum

To: All House Republican Members
From: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Date: April 11, 2017
Re: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

As many of you already know, the American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

On May 5, 2017, ALEC will be hosting their Spring Task Force Summit, located in Charlotte, North Carolina. This one-day summit will give participants the opportunity to collaborate with legislative leaders from across the country on some of the following issues:

- Civil Justice
- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Education and Workforce Development
- Energy, Environment and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

I can personally attest to the benefit of working with leaders from across our great country to find solutions to common issues. If you are interested in joining ALEC and participating in the 2017 Spring Task Force Summit, I encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.alec.org/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yaple in my office at Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-7959.

From: Kiessling, Jonas
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2016 1:02 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: FW: Builders Exchange
Attachments: image001.jpg; ATT00001.htm; Meet the BXLX Class of 2016.pdf; ATT00002.htm; February BXLX Agenda.pdf; ATT00003.htm

FYI

From: Stephanie Kunze [mailto:skunze@columbus.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 12:55 PM
To: Rep24; Kiessling, Jonas
Subject: Fwd: Builders Exchange

Please have Comm prepare something for me tomorrow. Thank you!!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hoeffel, Melissa" <MHoeffel@ralaw.com>
Date: February 1, 2016 at 12:49:14 PM EST
To: "Stephanie Kunze (skunze@columbus.rr.com)" <skunze@columbus.rr.com>
Subject: FW: Builders Exchange

Stephanie,

Please see attached the information I received from Tom. Your presentation is only 30 minutes. You may want to give a quick overview of the legislative process and how they can weigh in on issues that impact them. Maybe unemployment comp, right to work, tax reform, etc.

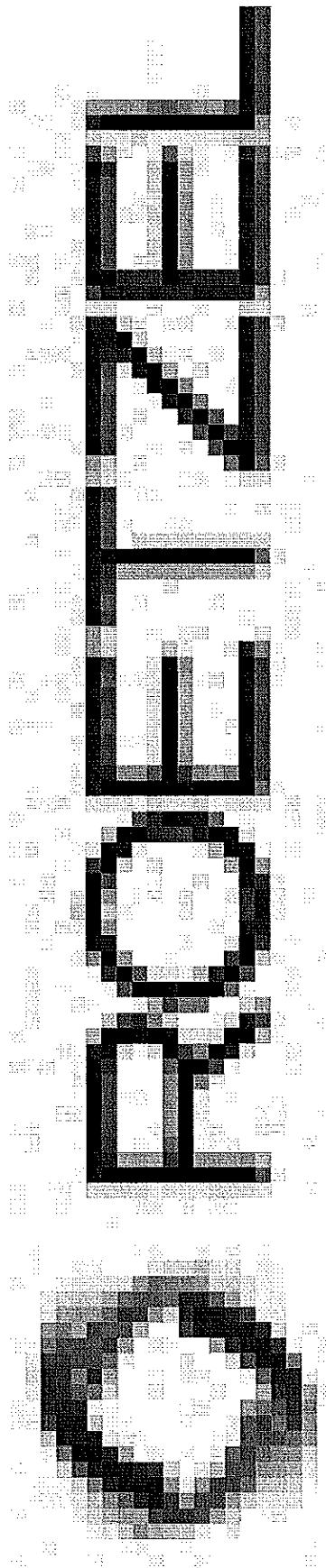
Thank you!!!!

From: Rosenberg, Thomas
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 3:27 PM
To: Hoeffel, Melissa
Subject: FW: Builders Exchange

Melissa- You will see from 11:30 to 12:45 we have two things, a panel discussion with the presidents of two construction companies and a

presentation by Rep. Kunze. These are two separate activities but I have put them at the same time to provide some leeway and no down time if she is running late. If she is running late, we will start with our panel discussion, break from it when she gets there and then return to it. We are asking Rep. Kunze to speak for 30 minutes and as stated, we will ask questions if necessary. As you will see from the first panel, it's a powerful group of speakers within construction. Usually Andrea Ashley and Bryan Williams leave after their portions. I have attached the attendee list and the schedule. Thanks.

Thomas L. Rosenberg



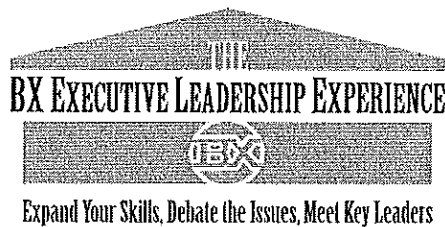
155 East Broad Street

PNC Plaza, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Direct Phone No.: 614.723.2006
Main Phone No.: 614.463.9770
Cell Phone No. 614.325.5077

Fax No.: 614.463.9792
Email: troseberg@ralaw.com
www.ralaw.com

Roetzel & Andress, A Legal Professional Association

Both Thomas L. Rosenberg and Roetzel & Andress intend that this message be used exclusively by the addressee(s). This message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Unauthorized disclosure or use of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please permanently dispose of the original message and notify Thomas L. Rosenberg immediately at 614.723.2006. Thank you.



Meet the Class of 2016

Ryan Adams, Enterprise Services Manager, The Superior Group
Jeff Blunt, Chief Financial Officer, Loeb Electric
Matt Claypool, Vice President of Operations, Claypool Electric, Inc.
Matt Ference, Business Development Manager, Corna Kokosing Construction Co.
Matt Greenwood, Operations Manager, Construction Systems, Inc.
Laura Haines, Vice President of Client Assurance, Converse Electric
James "Hoss" Hoskinson, President, Lang Masonry Contractors, Inc.
Greg Howard, Design Manager, Settle-Muter Electric, Ltd.
David Jarvis, Sales & Marketing, Jendco Safety Supply
Dave Jones, Director of Project Management, Elford, Inc.
Victor Kolb, Project Executive/Vice President, R.J. Beischel Building Co.
Craig Morse, Senior Account Manager, Spectra Contract Flooring
Ben Pesich, Executive Manager of Business Development & Sales, Ohio Heating
Brad Richey, SPD Manager, Turner Construction Co.
Christian Robertson, President, Robertson Construction Services, Inc.
Rick Roehrenbeck, President, Roehrenbeck Electric, Inc.
Victor Senk, Project Executive, Continental Building Systems
Heather Sharp, Vice President of Sales & Specifications, Inside Outfitters, Inc.
Cassy Sleeper, Strategic Marketing Manager, Bruner Corp.
Jason Stumbo, Senior Project Manager, Equity Construction Solutions
Brad Thompson, Chief Operating Officer, Thompson Concrete Construction, Ltd.
Ryan Wanner, Project Manager, Wanner Metal Worx, Inc.
Nic Williams, Project Manager, Kirk Williams Co., Inc.
Jason Woehrle, Project Manager, Gilbane Building Company



Expand Your Skills, Debate the Issues, Meet Key Leaders

BXLX Agenda - February 2, 2016 at The Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square

"The Impact of Politics and Government on Our Industry"

8:00 to 9:30 a.m. **Introduction to a Sampling of Advocacy Groups** for Ohio commercial construction, and policy issues they see confronting the industry. A panel of association government relations staff will each present their advocacy mission and perspectives.

Facilitators: Josh Corna, President, Corna Kokosing Construction Co., BX Board President and Tom Rosenberg, Partner, Roetzel & Andress

Panelists: AGC – Andrea Ashley, Vice President of Government Relations
ABC – Bryan C. Williams, Director of Government Affairs
ASA – Don Gregory, Director, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
AIA – David Brehm, Workplace Client Leader, BHDP Architecture
MCA – Joshua Sanders, Partner, Calfee, Halter & Griswold

9:30 a.m. **Break**

9:45 to 10:30 a.m. **Making Your Voice Heard in the Political Morass:** Politics at the national, state and local levels impact all aspects of your business. Are you engaged? If not, where do you start? Learn about ways to get involved and make your voice heard. After all, you are your business' best advocate.

Presenter: Andrea Ashley, AGC – Vice President of Government Relations

10:30 to 11:15 a.m. **Ohio's Common Sense Initiative** – Government regulations play an important role in promoting fair competition and protecting the public. The Common Sense Initiative requires state agencies, when developing or reviewing their business regulations, to seek input from interested parties early in the process and to balance the goals of the regulation with the costs for businesses to comply.

Presenter: Todd Colquitt, Business Advocate, Common Sense Initiative

11:15 a.m. **Break**

11:30 to 12:45 p.m. **Lunch, conversation with Representative Stephanie Kunze and closing comments** – Why it's important to get involved on behalf of your industry... and how to do it.

Panelists: Kurt Schmitt, President, Lincoln Construction and Dennis Shuman, President, Speer Mechanical

12:45 p.m. Walk from the Sheraton to the Statehouse

1:00 to 2:30 p.m. **Statehouse Tour** – A tour of the facility renovated in 1996 to resemble the way it looked when it was completed in 1861.

From: Lisa Gates

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 1:33 PM

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Greg Lawson looks at tax reform in yesterday's Columbus Dispatch

Yesterday Buckeye's Greg Lawson had a piece in *The Columbus Dispatch* looking at how Ohio policymakers can create tax policies that help our economy grow.

Greg Lawson: Ohio has ways to go to improve tax policy

The Columbus Dispatch

By Greg Lawson

April 18, 2017

Now that it is springtime, even if we are fortunate to avoid another blast of cold weather, we are unable to avoid the only thing Benjamin Franklin said is as sure in this world as death: Taxes.

Thanks to the typical tax day falling on a weekend and the federal holiday, Emancipation Day, being observed on Monday, April 17, today is this year's day of reckoning. So even though he is late, the taxman most assuredly is coming!

Lucky for us, Ohio policymakers, including Gov. John Kasich, have been busy trying to make this burden less onerous over the past several years. They have made real strides in this direction and deserve a round of applause for what has been accomplished.

Yet, more should be done, especially when it comes to our complex local taxes. Kasich and the General Assembly have continued to dramatically reduce what as recently as a decade ago was one of the highest state- and local tax burdens relative to other states. As recently as 2005, the personal income tax's top marginal rate was more than 7 percent. It is now less than 5 percent.

Ohio policymakers built upon tax cuts made under former Gov. Bob Taft, eliminated the death tax, and provided significant small-business tax relief. Ohio policymakers also wisely recognized the importance of shifting from income taxes — which are one of the worst taxes when it comes to promoting economic growth — to consumption taxes, and they made marginal improvements to Ohio's singularly unique and terrible municipal income tax.

Naturally, there is more to do.

First, The Buckeye Institute calls on policymakers to continue embracing our principles of good tax policy which include:

- Pro-growth — A tax system should minimize tax distortions, avoid high rates and discourage tax avoidance. A good tax plan will reduce tax rates on investment and labor, which are key components for economic prosperity and job creation.
- Simplicity — The tax code should be simplified by reducing loopholes, credits, and deductions. Complying with the tax code should not be burdensome. A simpler tax code makes it easier for both government administration and taxpayer compliance. A more complicated tax code increases the risk of special interest carve-outs and favors.
- Transparency — The tax code should be clear, enabling taxpayers to easily identify the specific taxes they pay. Ohioans should be able to understand debates over changes in tax policy and know how their elected officials are representing their interests.
- Fairness and equitability — A good tax code promotes equity by ensuring that taxpayers in similar situations are treated similarly, income is not taxed multiple times, and industries are not singled out for preferential tax treatment.

Alternatively, industries and individuals should not be punished and subject to punitive tax rates with government picking winners and punishing losers. People and businesses with equivalent earnings should pay similar taxes. Rates should not force individuals and businesses to change filing status for better tax treatment.

While Ohio's state tax rates have dramatically improved, Ohio remains a state with a high local tax burden. In and of itself, this is not terrible. Ohioans actually get many of their services from local government, not the state. That said, according to the Ohio Department of Taxation, Ohio's local tax burden ranks 13th nationally as a percentage of income. That is contrast to a state tax ranking of only 34. Overall, our tax burden ranks 24th and is clearly driven higher due more to our local tax system than our state tax system.

But the real problem is worse than just the rates. The burden of compliance and administration of some of these taxes, particularly the municipal income tax, can be massive and represent a bigger challenge than just the tax rates themselves. This is why a renewed effort to simplify the municipal income tax and its byzantine maze of compliance — including Kasich's budget proposal that would move toward a singular centralized collection process for businesses through the state — is long overdue.

Though even if this were to be implemented, we still have the problem of double-taxation, since one can be taxed both where he or she works and where one lives if one is unfortunate enough to reside in a community that doesn't offer a full credit.

So let us be happy for how far we've come. Tax policy is getting better in Ohio. The taxman is taking a smaller bite out of Ohioans' wallets. But just as cold air can still hit us in April, bad tax policy can reverse our gains and add to the many other challenges Ohio faces as it tries to improve its economy.

Greg R. Lawson is the senior policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute

--

Lisa A. Gates
Vice President of Communications
The Buckeye Institute
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-3255 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

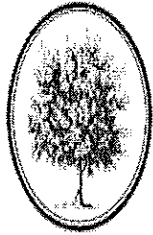
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:38 PM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: May 3 event: criminal justice reform all stars including former OSU running back Maurice Clarett

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



**U.S. JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK**



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SMART JUSTICE

THE ALL-STAR SERIES

You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

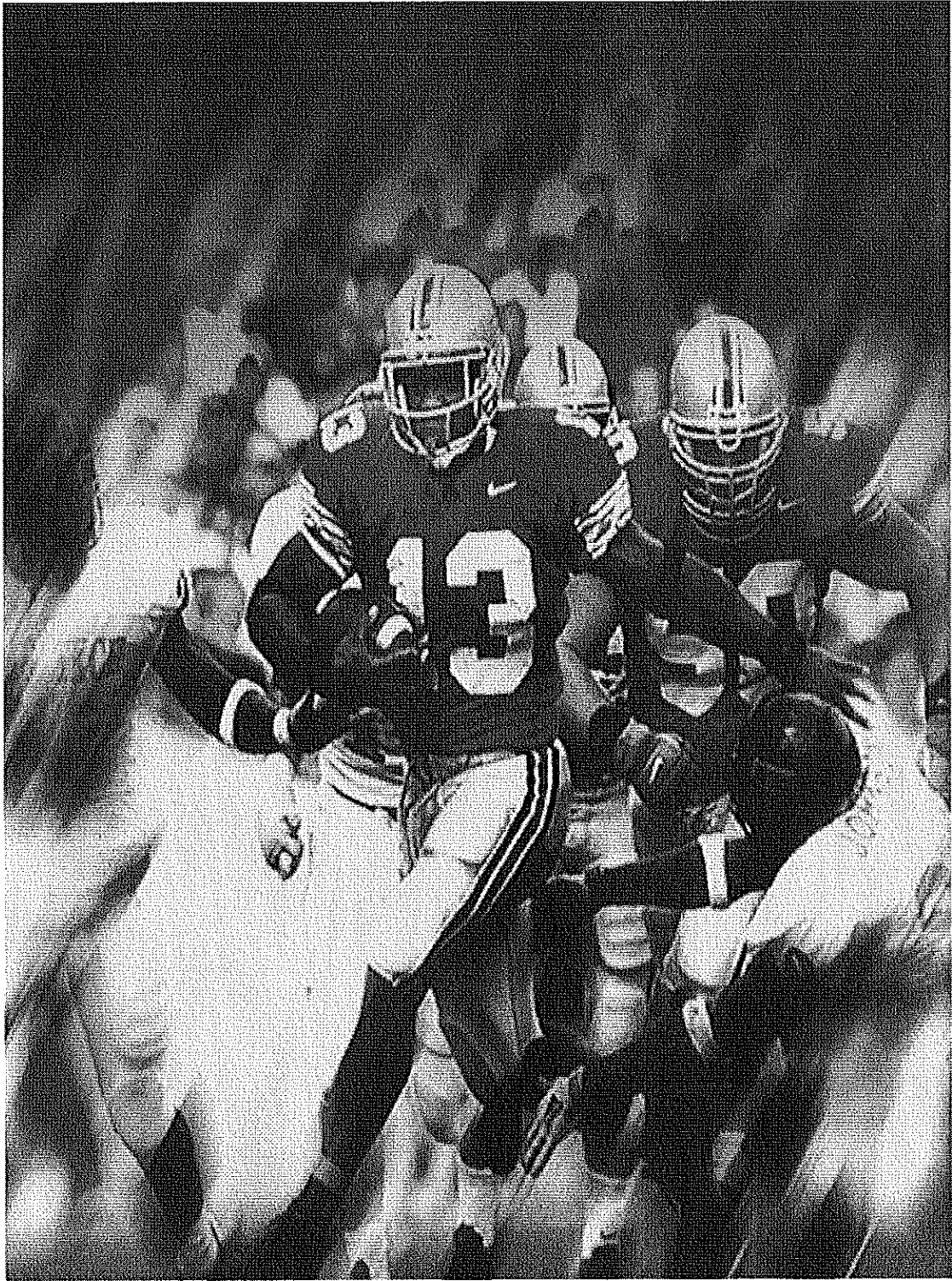
Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 3

5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

REGISTER HERE



###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

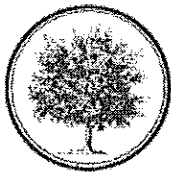
[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 7:35 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book Serves as Blueprint for Cutting the State Budget

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book Serves as Blueprint for Cutting the State Budget

Columbus, OH - As state lawmakers work to cut \$800 million from Ohio's budget, The Buckeye Institute today rolled out a series of recommendations policymakers could look at to save taxpayer dollars and trim the needed money. The recommendations are a part of Buckeye's 2017 Piglet Book, which was released in March, and if implemented, could save taxpayers more than \$1 billion, a more realistic target than \$800 million, given recent revenue shortfalls.

"The reality is, Office of Budget and Management revenue estimates have been too optimistic and policymakers need to cut \$1 billion from the proposed state budget. Cutting \$1 billion will offset additional spending and revenue shortfalls, which we should anticipate," said Robert Alt, President and Chief Executive Officer at The Buckeye

Institute. "The good news is, Buckeye has a blueprint - our Piglet Book - that can guide the legislature as it looks for needed cuts."

Recommendation #1

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Arts Council: Savings to Taxpayers: \$25.9 Million

The Ohio Arts Council receives taxpayer monies through income and sales tax revenue, which is then distributed to specifically-selected artists and galleries. While the work on the Arts Council has value, the government should not be an arbiter of culture. Artistic and cultural endeavors can and should be underwritten by donors giving voluntarily rather than by government fiat.

Recommendation #2

Slow the Rate of Growth in Education Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$208.7 Million

In FY16, Ohio spent \$10.5 billion funding the Department of Education. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$11.2 billion in FY18 and \$11.4 billion in FY19 for a total of \$22.6 billion. By slowing the rate of growth in education funding, Ohioans could save \$208.7 million.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$11.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$527.4 million over FY16) and \$11.3 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$748.9 million).

"A quality education is about far more than simply throwing more money at the education bureaucracy," said Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute. Simply slowing spending growth and shifting funding towards students rather than the 'system' can yield not only taxpayer savings, but--more importantly--better educational outcomes for our students. It is time to start moving in this direction."

Recommendation #3

Eliminate Funding to the Ohioana Library Association: Savings to Taxpayers: \$595,228

While not a huge cost savings when compared to the budget killers of Medicaid and education funding, eliminating funding to private organizations, such as Ohioana Library adds up to real cost savings.

The Ohioana Library Association's work, while laudable, is not a core government service that requires taxpayer subsidies. As with the Ohio Arts Council, private individuals and the private sector should guide investment for this work.

Recommendation #4

Slow the Rate of Growth in Medicaid Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$1.6 Billion

More than two decades ago then-Governor George Voinovich called Medicaid the Pac-Man of Ohio's budget. It remains so today, eating up more than 47 percent of Ohio tax dollars.

In FY16, Ohio spent \$22.8 billion funding the Department of Medicaid. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$25 billion in FY18 and \$25.7 billion in FY19 for a total of \$50.7 billion. By slowing the rate of growth, Ohioans could save \$1.6 billion.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$24.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$1.4 billion over FY16) and \$24.9 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$2.1 billion).

"When Governor Kasich released his proposed budget, I previously said of Medicaid funding, 'Ohio continues to pick up additional financial burdens that will gobble up an increasing amount of state resources and crowd out other essential investments and priorities,'" said Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at The Buckeye Institute. "Revenue shortfalls have exacerbated that situation. It is time for Ohio to get serious about controlling Medicaid spending and implementing innovative proposals, such as using 1332 waivers to gain greater flexibility under Obamacare."

Recommendation #5

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Grape Industries: Savings to Taxpayers: \$2.4 Million
Ohioans pay to market Ohio wines through a five-cent tax on each bottle of wine, something wine producers should pay for themselves.

Taxpayers should not be expected to pay for corporate welfare of any kind, and the government should not favor one business or industry over another. If a company or industry makes a good product, people will buy it. The use of taxpayer money to support favored businesses is both ethically inappropriate and economically harmful.

These recommendations, along with others found in the 2017 Piglet Book, would save Ohio taxpayers \$3.8 billion, more than quadruple the needed \$800 million for which Governor Kasich and leaders in the Ohio House and Senate have called.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

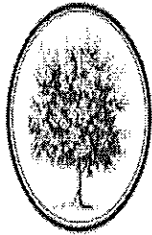
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 8:08 AM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: REMINDER MAY 3 EVENT: Join Us & Former OSU Running Back Maurice Clarett for a Conversation on "Smart on Crime" Policies

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



**U.S. JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK**



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SMART JUSTICE

THE ALL-STAR SERIES

You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus
on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend
changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these
days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a
serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal
justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season. Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

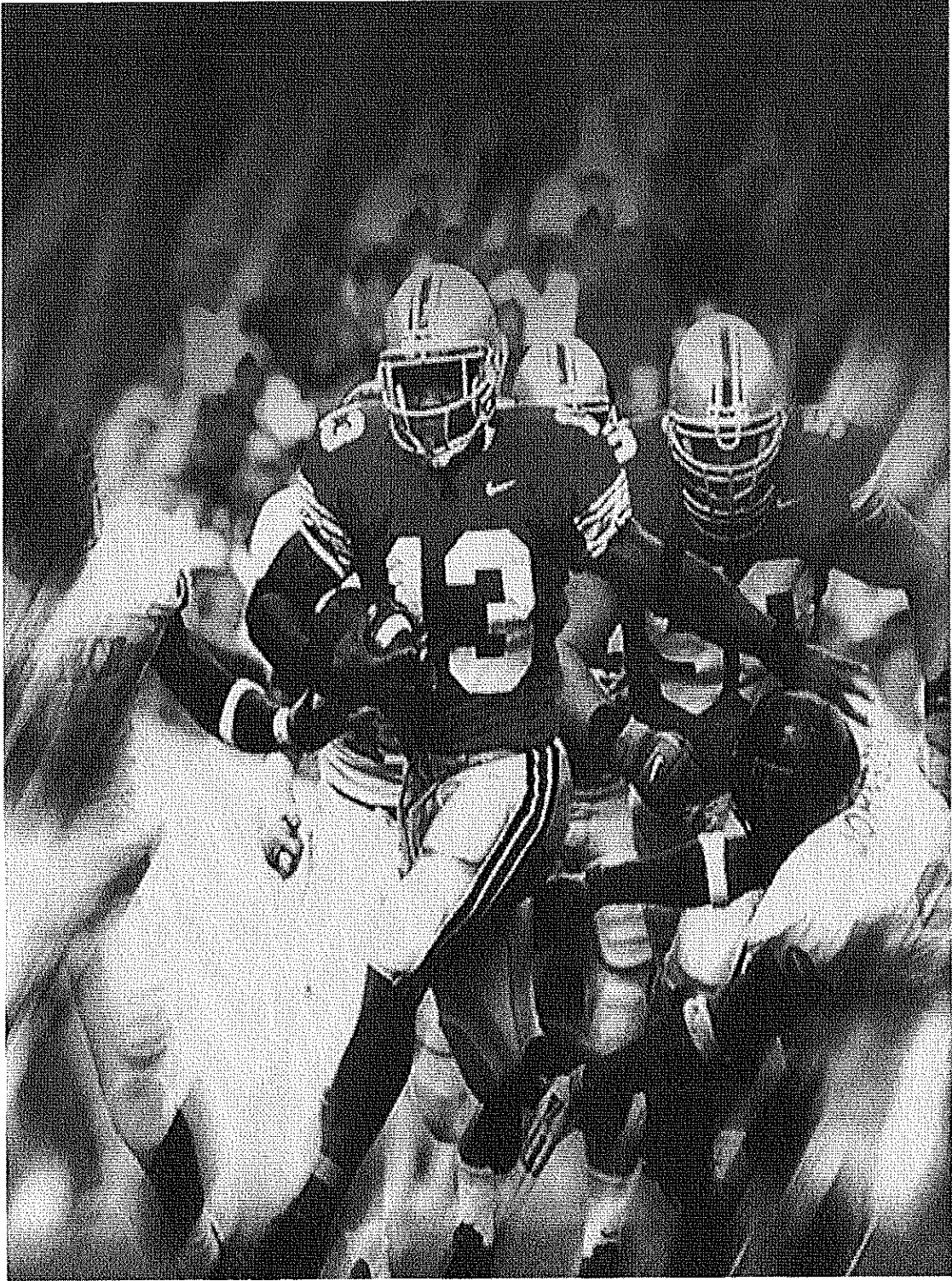
Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 3

5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

REGISTER HERE



###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 4:36 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform

By **Greg R. Lawson**
April 28, 2017

On April 25, the **Ohio House Finance Committee** unveiled its first round of amendments ([download PDF](#)) to the Governor's proposed biennial operating budget, House Bill 49. Even with a few bright spots, the House's first attempt is not nearly as bold as the 2015 budget, it does not make the necessary spending cuts that leadership recently acknowledged, and it will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform.

Overview

First, the good news. House Bill 49 rightly eliminates most-but not all-of the "tax shifting" that permeated the Governor's proposal. The bill also retains the basic contours of the Governor's school funding proposal, including better mechanisms for allowing state money to follow the student. The House also re-asserts the General Assembly's control over federal dollars by reining in Ohio's Controlling Board. And finally, the

House largely adopts the Governor's proposed criminal justice reforms that will keep low-level, non-violent offenders from state prisons.

Now, the bad news. The Governor and legislative leadership recently warned that Ohio needed to reduce spending by roughly \$800 million. The spending cuts in House Bill 49 fall well short of that mark. Much of the proposal's \$2.5 billion of "savings" can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand, and such "on paper savings" don't amount to significant real savings.

The House budget, for example, does little to give the state a better grip on Medicaid spending-the "Pac-Man" of Ohio's budget-and the last biennial budget offered better Medicaid reforms than this one. Thus, the House misses an opportunity to make the kind of meaningful spending cuts that will make it easier for Ohio to pursue fundamental tax reforms.

The Governor's proposal begins to reform Ohio's arcane municipal income tax structure-the House guts that proposal, and then litters the budget with a trail of dubious licensing fee increases. The last House budget recognized Ohio's urgent need to reform her labor laws in order to compete with her reform-minded neighbors-but not this budget. No real tax or labor reforms here, just more opportunities missed.

Fortunately, the current House Bill 49 is not the final word on the matter. The House plans to move the budget next week, leaving a limited-but possible-opportunity for cooler heads to prevail and better policies to be included. With such hope in mind, a fuller analysis of key features of House Bill 49 follows.

The Buckeye Institute urges members of the House to continue look for additional savings-did we mention our Piglet Book?-and to embrace far more robust Medicaid and labor reforms.

Eliminates Most Tax Shifting

We generally support tax proposals designed to move Ohio from an income-tax structure to more of a consumption-tax state. But we have long-standing concerns about making that shift too quickly. In our view, any sound, structural tax reform must first be preceded by lower government spending to help resist the inevitable temptation to balance the budget and pay for tax reform by increasing taxes.

We therefore commend the House for eliminating much of the "tax shifting" that effectively allows the government to pick "winners" and "losers" in the market. The

House budget, for example, does not include a new tax on vapor, or a severance tax hike, or a tobacco tax increase. Well done. The House also eliminated the Governor's plan to expand the sales tax to include most services-with the unfortunate exception of extending the state sales tax to online travel agencies.

Municipal Income Tax Reform

One of the Governor's better ideas in the FY 2018-2019 budget proposed moving to centralize the tax collection process for businesses across the state. Ohio's municipal income tax structure is among the nation's worst and most burdensome-and, as we have argued repeatedly, simplifying this byzantine system is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the House's substitute budget eviscerates the Governor's reform and then proceeds to charge taxpayers for trying to file a single state tax form-essentially taxing the taxpayer as he attempts to pay his taxes. Insult, meet injury.

We suggest either returning to the Governor's proposal or centralizing tax collections in a single location without levying any additional administrative fees for filing taxes.

Budget "Savings" and Spending Restraint

House Bill 49 purports to cut an additional \$2.5 billion from the Governor's proposal over the next two years, with nearly \$923 million of those "savings" coming from reductions in the General Revenue Fund. Thus, the House budget appears to remain in stride with inflation.

Many of the so-called spending cuts, however, may be more illusory than they at first appear. The House budget claims to save more than \$1 billion from Medicaid, for example, but it remains unclear whether these are real savings or merely deft accounting tricks.

Similarly, \$944 million of the \$2.5 billion "savings" are attributed to reducing the amount the state spends as fiduciary for collecting municipal income net profits taxes. House Bill 49 does reduce the overall appropriations for this function, but this hardly qualifies as "state spending" when these are local tax dollars that the state simply collects and then redistributes to the appropriate localities.

To be sure, the House budget does take some laudable steps forward to restrain spending. The House froze, for instance, the **State Share of Instruction**, which subsidizes Ohio Institutions of Higher Learning; and eliminated unnecessary subsidies for the Ohioana Library Association. Such subsidies give public institutions less

incentive to economize, reduce costs, increase quality, and otherwise behave like rational actors in a free marketplace.

The House also curtailed the Controlling Board's unilateral authority to use more than \$10 million of unexpected federal funds. This reform empowers the General Assembly- and not the Controlling Board-when deciding which federal programs Ohio should join. Had this measure been in place several years ago, Ohio most likely would not have participated in the disastrous Medicaid expansion that was joined against the will of the General Assembly.

We remain encouraged by the House's tribute to fiscal restraint, but earmarks continue to burrow their way into the budget and more cost-cutting is needed in order to bring state spending down to responsible, sustainable levels. See our **Piglet Book** for more examples of how Columbus can trim the fat.

Criminal Justice Reform

We applaud the House for affirming the Governor's proposal to rehabilitate low-level offenders locally rather than in state-run facilities. More than 95 percent of those who go to prison return to our communities. Low-level offenders who serve time in state prisons often return even more hardened and more dangerous than when they began their sentence.

Ohio must pursue policies that protect communities while keeping as many low-level offenders out of prison as safely possible. As we have **explained**, community treatment is twice as effective at one-third the cost, making our communities safer and saving taxpayer money in the long run.

The Governor's budget would require non-violent, non-sex offenders to be rehabilitated locally, and authorize the **Department of Rehabilitation and Correction** to grant counties money to offset the added costs of rehabilitation. State judges participating in a pilot rehabilitation program support the Governor's proposal, while the Ohio Judicial Conference and Prosecuting Attorneys Association have opposed the measure. House Bill 49 struck a compromise that will allow counties to send up to 15 percent of their non-violent, non-sex offenders to prison-a compromise that we believe will save money and make our communities safer.

Education Reform

House Bill 49 rightly embraces the contours of Governor Kasich's education proposal. That proposal begins unwinding the inherent problems of "caps" and

"guarantees" that distort the accuracy of the Foundation Funding Formula (the designated amount spent on each public school student from the General Revenue Fund and lottery profits). "Guarantees" allow districts with declining enrollment to maintain previous funding levels despite serving fewer students, and "caps" prevent districts with growing enrollment levels from receiving the formula's full amount.

Although we applaud the House's effort here, we wish that it was not exceeding the Governor's already respectable Foundation Funding by expanding "racino" gambling that may expose the state to expensive litigation. Two cheers for education reform!

Medicaid Reform

We remain cautiously optimistic-or perhaps hopefully skeptical-that the House's Medicaid spending cuts will actually materialize. House Bill 49 allows Mr. Kasich's Administration to seek a waiver from Washington to add several requirements-including work requirements-to the state's expanded Medicaid population. This is a reasonable, but insufficient first step toward reversing Ohio's Medicaid expansion, and the bill's loose language is riddled with loopholes that threaten to render the reforms ineffective. Compounding our skepticism, the House failed to include the last budget's *Healthy Ohio* waiver that the Obama Administration denied.

Ohio policymakers should be taking full advantage of the current climate in Washington and pushing for innovative Medicaid "**1332 waivers**" to alleviate some of the onerous burdens of Medicaid by helping people get out of the program. For the first time in years, the federal government wants to increase state flexibility in Medicaid programs, and House Bill 49 fails to take advantage of a golden opportunity to pursue bolder reforms that will pare back Medicaid. Again-opportunity averted.

Health Care Transparency Reform

House Bill 49 regrettably waters-down some positive reforms designed to make health care more transparent. Though not a cure for rising health care costs, transparency and patient access to more information can help the market and consumer preferences drive down costs. Another opportunity needlessly wasted.

Licensing Reform

As we have argued, Ohio must address her burdensome occupational licensing scheme. By consolidating several licensing boards and commissions, Governor Kasich and House Bill 49 have taken baby-steps toward helping workers achieve their full professional potential. We continue to advocate administrative savings, and have championed lowering-rather than raising-licensing fees for prospective licensees. The

House budget also makes telemedicine services more available and expands occupational freedom for certified nurse practitioners by allowing them to help more patients receive medicine. We see these reforms helping health care providers monitor and treat patients more efficiently and effectively, which will ultimately reduce health care costs.

Labor Reform

House Bill 49 lacks any meaningful labor reform. Where previous budgets made at least some effort to amend Ohio laws on "project labor agreements" or making prevailing wages optional at the local level, this House budget is eerily silent. Even relatively minor labor reforms can help ease burdens on businesses and local governments, thereby reducing costs and spurring economic growth. Labor reform is an opportunity that the House can ill afford to miss.

Conclusion

Fortunately, House Bill 49 will not have the last say on these matters. The full House must still vote on the budget before sending it to the Senate, which gives policymakers time and, *ahem*, opportunity to improve upon the current draft.

The Legislative Service Commission has compiled **these resources** for exploring the gritty details of the budget, including a comparison of House Bill 49 and the Governor's initial proposal.

Greg R. Lawson is the senior policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

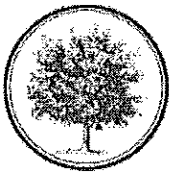
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 3:02 PM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: May Day Job Opening at Buckeye... and Ohio's Budgetary Mayday

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ladies and Gentlemen, we did not receive any baskets of goodies on our doorstep this morning. Yet we are still offering two gifts to the world today.

First, if you have ever dreamed you could be part of Buckeye's top notch team, and you have the skills and can-do attitude we require, today could be your lucky day: Buckeye is hiring.

With May flowers and barely-observed holidays comes new growth in our organization. We told you a few weeks ago about our impressive new VP of Comms Lisa Gates, and now--hot off the press--we can announce that Quinn Beeson is joining us later this week as Buckeye's new Economic Research Analyst.

However, for your May Day enjoyment (in lieu of that lovely basket for which you were hoping), we have another position that we just opened today for your consideration. Take a look, send it on to anyone you think might be a good fit, or apply yourself. We are searching for the best person we can find and expect a competitive process, but we hope that it might be you who wins the position! Feel free to encourage others to apply as well.

In other news, last week the Ohio House passed its version of the state budget... which, in the words of Buckeye's own Greg Lawson, "will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform." That's not our gift to you.

Our second special May Day gift to the world is that Greg pulls no punches in his analysis of the House version in a new blog found here: [House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform.](#)

We recommend enjoying it along with [an aptly named cocktail!](#)

There were some bright spots in the House budget, but unfortunately it failed to cut the \$800 million that the Governor and legislative leadership recently said was necessary. And the \$2.5 billion of "savings" it did find can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand. If you took a small sip of that aforementioned cocktail for every dollar that... wait, no. Don't do that.

If only a nationally recognized policy organization had offered a blueprint on where cost savings could be found in the budget... ahem, see our [Piglet Book!](#)

Fortunately, the House version is not the final budget, so policymakers still have time to take bold action. If you love policy analysis and budget reviews as much as we do, you'll want to read Greg's full analysis [here.](#)

Happy May Day to one and all!

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

Support Our Work!



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

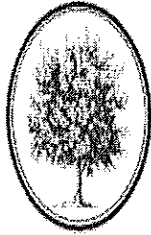
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 7:35 AM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: JOIN US AT 5:00PM: Join Us & Former OSU Running Back Maurice Clarett for a Conversation on "Smart on Crime" Policies

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



**U.S. JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK**



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SMART JUSTICE

THE ALL-STAR SERIES

You're invited!

With the Ohio House passing its version of the budget, we know you are looking for something to do Wednesday evening.

You're in luck, we have the perfect evening planned.

The Buckeye Institute, along with U.S. Justice Action Network, are hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a

bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

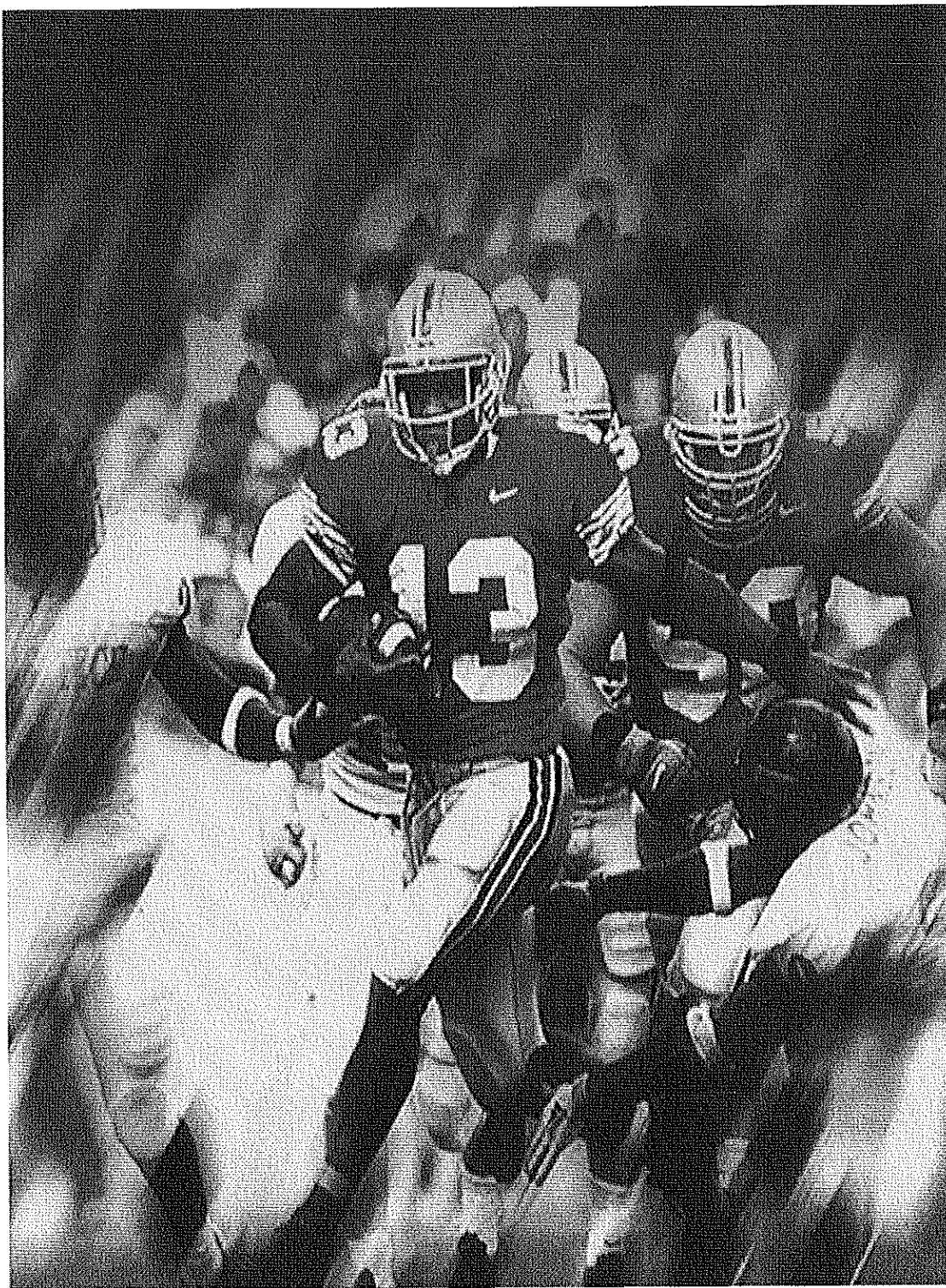
Wednesday, May 3
5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre

77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

REGISTER HERE

.....



###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

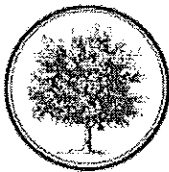
[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 9:50 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Buckeye, Fighting to Protect the U.S. Constitution

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

The **Red Tape Rollback** campaign, which **The Buckeye Institute** is a proud partner of, is defending the U.S. Constitution and ensuring that unaccountable government bureaucrats aren't imposing burdensome regulations on citizens.

As a part of this campaign, the **Pacific Legal Foundation** is defending the Congressional Review Act in the case *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*. You can read their news release below and learn more about Red Tape Rollback campaign at www.redtaperollback.com.

PLF STEPS UP TO DEFEND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IN COURT

*As a leading CRA champion, PLF will litigate against an
environmental group's confused constitutional challenge*

Anchorage, Alaska; May 4, 2017: Pacific Legal Foundation has just stepped forward to defend the Congressional Review Act (CRA), the 1996 statute that allows Congress to rein in bureaucracies by voiding harmful regulations.

PLF is the first of two groups to move to intervene against a federal lawsuit by an environmental activist group - the Center for Biological Diversity - which claims, astonishingly, that Congress and the president violate the Constitution when they pass a law that rescinds a bureaucracy's regulation. With its motion to intervene, PLF has also filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that CBD's challenge has no basis in the Constitution, the Congressional Review Act, or court precedent and should be immediately bootied out of court. PLF is the only group in the litigation that has sought a dismissal.

"CBD's lawsuit seeks to turn the Constitution on its head, placing unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats above Congress," said PLF attorney Jonathan Wood. "Under our Constitution, administrative agencies only have power that Congress chooses to delegate to them. Congress is free to limit its delegation of power as it sees fit. What Congress gives, it can take away, or curtail. Using the Congressional Review Act to strike down an agency's regulatory decrees is an example of that constitutional principle in action."

Under the CRA, agencies must submit every rule they adopt to Congress for review. Congress then has a brief time to use expedited procedures to enact a resolution of disapproval and send it to the president for his signature. Congress and President Trump have used the CRA 13 times to void Obama Administration rules. CBD's lawsuit focuses on the rescinding of a regulation against hunting and trapping of predator species in Alaska's national refuges - a restriction that interfered with the state's ability to manage wildlife and outlawed responsible hunting practices, undermining opportunities to responsibly hunt for food or pursue income from guided hunts.

In seeking to intervene in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, in defense of the CRA's constitutionality, PLF represents itself along with several key hunting organizations and individuals. They include: Alaska Outdoor Council, Big Game Forever, and Alaska Master Guides Kurt Whitehead and Joe Letarte, both of whom also hunt in their personal time.

CRA is fully consistent with the Constitution

"Schoolhouse Rock has taught generations of children how a bill becomes a law under the Constitution," said Todd Gaziano, PLF's DC Director and Senior Fellow in Constitutional Law, as well as the director of PLF's Red Tape Rollback project. "CBD could use a refresher. When a majority of both houses of Congress pass a bill disapproving an agency rule and the president signs it, we call that a law, and this applies as much to legislation passed under the CRA as to any other form of legislation. Laws enacted using the Congressional Review Act's procedures are fully consistent with the Constitution."

PLF's intervention in this litigation reflects its established role as a leading CRA champion. The Red Tape Rollback project, founded and overseen by PLF, is a multipronged program to educate Congress and the public on dynamic ways to deploy the CRA against regulatory overreach. A significant coalition of think tanks and public interest groups has joined this project, including The Club for Growth, The Heritage Foundation, The Buckeye Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, and State Policy Network as Founding Partners; and Cause of Action Institute, R Street, Independent Women's Forum, and Center of the American Experiment as Partners.

"The Congressional Review Act is essential to restoring our elected representatives to their proper role overseeing the administrative state," Gaziano said. "As the foremost independent advocate for strategic use of the CRA, and as a leading litigator against regulatory abuses by the administrative state in general, PLF brings a unique interest and expertise to this litigation. For this reason, PLF's intervention is more than appropriate - it is essential."

The case is *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*.

Case Documents

- [Motion to Intervene](#)
- [Motion to Dismiss](#)
- [Declaration of Gaziano for PLF](#)

About Pacific Legal Foundation

Pacific Legal Foundation, America's most powerful ally for justice, litigates in courts nationwide for limited government, property rights, individual liberty, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations. PLF represents all clients free of charge.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

Support The Buckeye Institute!



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

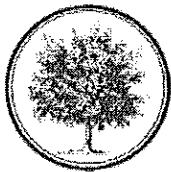
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Buckeye Praises Sentencing Commission Report and Offers Recommendations

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye Praises Sentencing Commission Report and Offers Recommendations

Columbus, OH - On Monday, **The Buckeye Institute's** Legal Center filed comments with the **Ohio Sentencing Commission** supporting its report *Ad Hoc Committee on Bail and Pretrial Services Final Report*. The Buckeye Institute also suggested two amendments to the new rules (see full comments below or [download the PDF](#)).

"This report details significant problems in our current bail system and outlines critical evidence-based solutions that are sorely needed in Ohio," said Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute. "One-third of people in Ohio jails have not been convicted of a crime. Yet, taxpayer dollars are paying for these people to be taken away from their jobs and families simply because they can't afford bail. What Ohio needs is a system that uses proven risk assessment tools, such as those developed by the **Arnold**

Foundation, instead of using money to determine who can be safely released into the community."

Buckeye suggested two amendments to the new rules.

- First, the proposed rules unfortunately maintain outdated bail bond schedules that do not make an accurate, individual assessment of each defendant's flight risk or the risk he or she poses to the community. Instead, the rules should do away with bail bond schedules and require the courts to use vetted risk assessment tools to assess every defendant individually.
- Second, bail bonds serve two valid purposes -- protecting the community and ensuring that defendants return to court. However, new information and technology have made cash bail an antiquated practice with limited utility. Risk assessment tools, like those used in Lucas County, have proven to be more effective than current cash bail practices by every metric. The proposed rules should recognize that cash deposits do not make defendants less dangerous, and should therefore require that cash bail be used only as a last resort.

###

**The Buckeye Institute Comments on Ohio Criminal Sentencing
Commission: Ad Hoc Committee on Bail and Pretrial Services Final
Report**

Ohio's Criminal Sentencing Commission has proposed rule changes that will help make our communities safer, our criminal justice system more just, and our local jails less crowded.

The Buckeye Institute supports the Commission's proposed changes, but we suggest two amendments to the new rules.

First, the proposed rules unfortunately maintain outdated bail bond schedules that do not make an accurate, individual assessment of each defendant's flight risk or the risk he or she poses to the community. Instead, the rules should do away with bail bond schedules and require the courts to use vetted risk assessment tools to assess every defendant individually.

Second, bail bonds serve two valid purposes -- protecting the community and ensuring that defendants return to court. But new information and technology have made cash bail an

antiquated practice with limited utility. Risk assessment tools, like those used in Lucas County, have proven to be more effective than current cash bail practices by every metric. The proposed rules should recognize that cash deposits do not make defendants less dangerous, and should therefore require that cash bail be used only as a last resort.

Risk Assessment Tools

Knowledge is power, and at the risk of sounding like a pizza commercial: better information, better decision-making. Businesses have long understood this and have gone to great lengths to enhance the data and information at their disposal in order to improve profit margins, create better experiences and products for their customers, and become more effective and efficient at whatever they do. Our favorite sports teams have more recently discovered the not-so-secret benefits of data collection. Teams now routinely use "analytics" to maximize their defense or point-scoring efficiency. Baseball teams employ the infield "shift" on some opposing power hitters who statistically do not hit to the opposite field. Basketball statisticians have shown that taking an uncontested three-point shot has more value and probability of success than shooting a contested layup. Analytics.

But "big data" is not just for "big business." Ohio can use data and analytics in her criminal justice system in much the same way that the Indians and Reds know when to shift the infield. The shortstop doesn't play behind second base against every batter.

Similarly, vetted risk assessment tools allow courts to collect statistically significant information from defendants in order to better determine whether a particular defendant poses much of a risk to the community or how likely he might be to skip town. These analytical tools do not set the terms or conditions of a defendant's release, but they can provide courts with better information to help them make better decisions. Courts in Lucas County, for example, are successfully using a risk assessment tool that, according to the Sentencing Commission Report, has already improved court appearance rates, public safety rates, and pretrial success rates—all while awarding more pretrial releases.[1] And more courts are following Lucas County's lead.

Unfortunately, the Sentencing Commission's proposed rule still refers to bail bonds schedules, the antithesis of individualized risk assessments.

Bail Schedules, Judicial Discretion, & Public Safety

Mandatory bail schedules undermine judicial discretion without enhancing public safety. Unlike individualized risk assessments, prescribed bails schedules allow some defendants to remain in jail simply because they cannot afford the bail, while also releasing other, potentially more dangerous defendants merely because they can afford the fixed bail. What bail a given defendant might afford, of course, has no reasonable bearing on the danger that

he may present to the community-making it an imprudent means of securing our public safety. A dangerous defendant is dangerous regardless of the money he gives to the bail bond agent, and there are far more effective conditions of pre-trial release-such as electronic monitoring, periodic court check-ins, and required appointments with probation officers-that can help make our communities safer while dangerous defendants await trial.

There are limited circumstances when assessing cash bail makes sense. When an out-of-state defendant poses no threat to the community, for instance, but needs a financial inducement to return for his court date, a reasonable cash bond is likely to ensure his return. But ordinarily, cash bail is the least effective way to keep communities safe and should be the exception rather than the rule.

The final rule should abolish and not even refer to bail schedules. The Commission Report asks the legislature to do away with bail schedules, but the Ohio Supreme Court should exercise its constitutional authority to make this change unilaterally. Article I Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution states, in part, that "[p]rocedures for establishing the amount and conditions of bail shall be established pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Constitution of the state of Ohio." Article IV, Section 5(b) gives rule-making authority to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Thus, although state law requires (R.C. 2937.23(A)(2)) our courts to set bail schedules, Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Ohio Constitution makes clear that an Ohio Supreme Court rule would supersede this law if the rule and the statute are inconsistent: "All laws in conflict with such rules shall be of no further force or effect after such rules have taken effect." The Supreme Court should use its constitutional authority to establish a new, unilateral rule on bail schedules for all Ohio courts to follow.

Conclusion

To maximize public safety, justice, and local jail facilities, the Sentencing Commission's proposed rules should:

1. Prohibit bail bonds schedules; and
2. Acknowledge that cash bail is the least preferred condition of release that should only be used as a last resort to ensure a defendant's appearance in court.

[1] The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission: *Ad Hoc Committee on Bail and Pretrial Services Final Report*, at 9.

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy
CC: Haavisto, Elizabeth
Subject: PR ALERT: Hagan (sending at 2:35)
Attachments: +Rep. Christina Hagan.jpg



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Elizabeth

Haavisto

May 16, 2017

(614) 466-9078

Representative Hagan Named ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

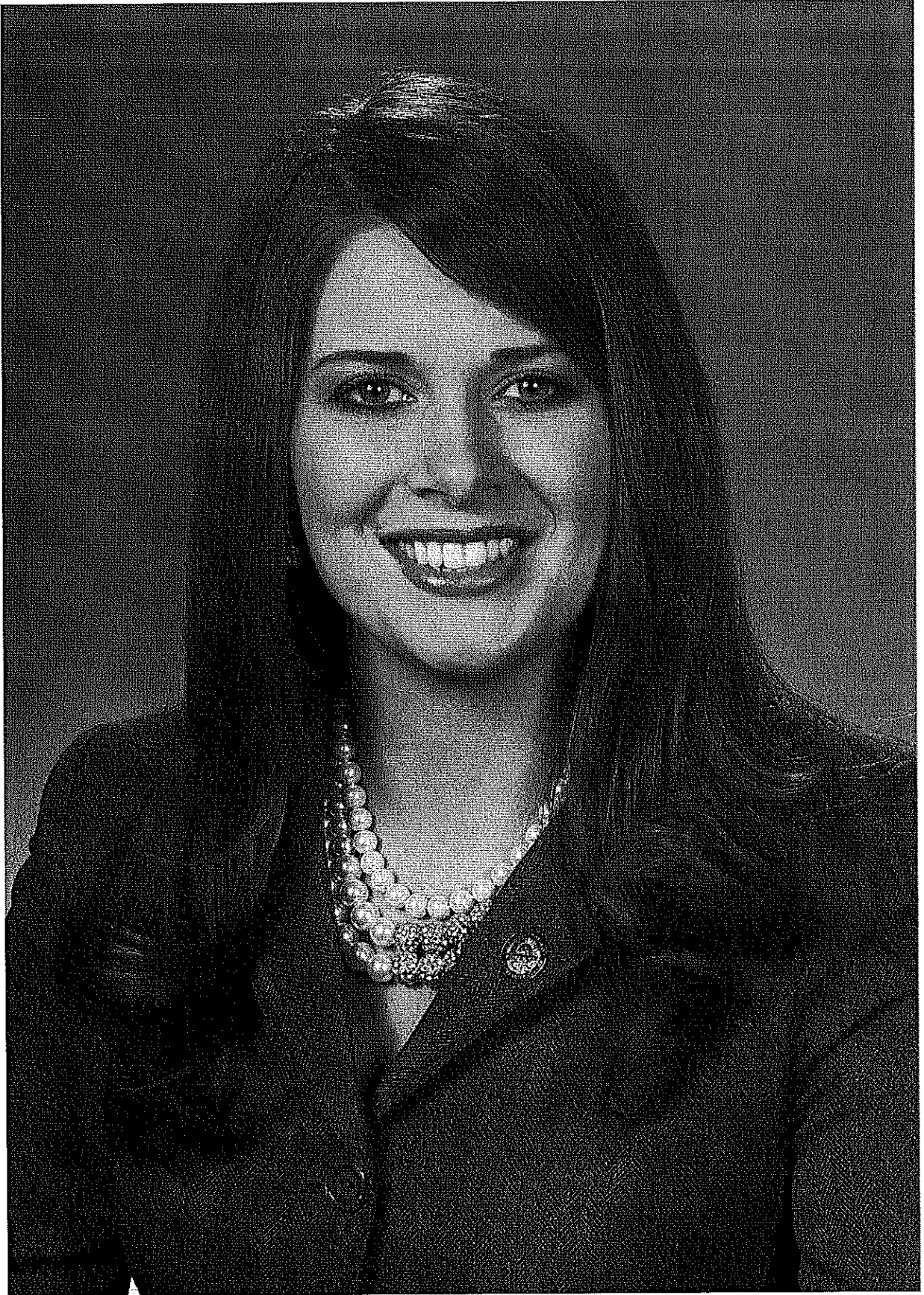
COLUMBUS—State Representative Christina Hagan (R-Marlboro Township) was recently named Legislator of the Week by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and FreedomWorks.

Rep. Hagan was recognized for her legislative work in the Ohio House and service to her community, as representative of the 50th House District. An active member of ALEC, Rep. Hagan has focused on various issues affecting Ohioans, including strengthening the state's vital small business sector, promoting states' rights and encouraging financial literacy through legislative initiatives.

"I am honored to be recognized for my legislative work and service to our community," Rep. Hagan said.

ALEC is the nation's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators. With a focus on limited government, free markets and federalism, the organization serves as a forum to discuss ideas and exchange information on policies that work to benefit taxpayers.

State Rep. Hagan is currently serving her third term in the Ohio House of Representatives. She represents the 50th House District, which includes portions of Stark County.



From: The Buckeye Institute

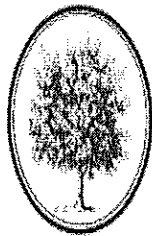
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:30 PM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: Seasoning justice with mercy--and our #SensibleJustice event May 31

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

While the kids talk, tweet, and text in abbreviations that don't translate well into adult-speak, I sometimes wonder whether words matter anymore the way they did when I was in school studying Papa Shakespeare's work: that whole chestnut about a rose going by another name? Do our students even read Shakespeare to get that reference these days? Have they seen the Merchant of Venice to understand the concept of seasoning justice with mercy?

When The Buckeye Institute began its campaign in earnest 3 years ago to reform criminal justice laws in Ohio one by one, we didn't have a clever title or marketing name or the right words, if you will, to describe our project. We simply set out to get things done and took action toward our goal. And the results of our efforts were extraordinary and remain unmatched by any state in the entire country.

To highlight a few of the reforms we are working on right now, we are co-hosting an event next week (on Wednesday, see details below) and have come up with the right hash tag and title to capture what we are setting about to do: Sensible Justice. Incarcerate those who are dangerous to

society, such as violent or sexual predators, and give those whose addictions are the primary cause of their illegal activity the chance at redemption and rehabilitation in what is indisputably the smarter, more financially efficient, and more seasoned way to reduce crime.

Perhaps we should have named our campaign "seasoned justice" to borrow a phrase that Shakespeare coined so eloquently through Portia's statement to Shylock:

*The quality of mercy is not strained.
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed:
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest. It becomes
The thronèd monarch better than his crown.
His scepter shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings,
But mercy is above this scepter'd sway.
It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings.
It is an attribute to God himself.
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.*

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, May 31, for a roundtable discussion moderated by Buckeye's own Criminal Justice Fellow Daniel Dew at the Statehouse in Columbus to hear what actual practitioners in Ohio are doing to creatively and effectively reduce crime rates and recidivism, keep our communities safe, and enact sensible reforms. And, hey, there's an open bar. So let's join together to toast our extraordinary progress on criminal justice reforms in Ohio as well as Papa Shakespeare's uncanny mastery of the English language. Here's to The Buckeye Institute working with all of you to add dashes of mercy into our justice system.

Law, Order, and Sensible Justice Roundtable

HOSTED BY: COALITION FOR PUBLIC
SAFETY, THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE AND
THE OHIO JUSTICE & POLICY CENTER

Wednesday, May 31
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Ohio Statehouse Atrium
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

REGISTER HERE

Featuring:

Senator John Eklund
Ohio State Senate, District 18

Carter Stewart
Former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio

Captian Howard Rahtz (Ret.)
Cincinnati Police Department

Judge John W. "Tim" Rudduck
Clinton County Common Please Court

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov](#)

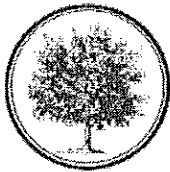
[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 3:12 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: New Buckeye Institute Report: ESAs Would Meet Ohio's Unique Educational Needs

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

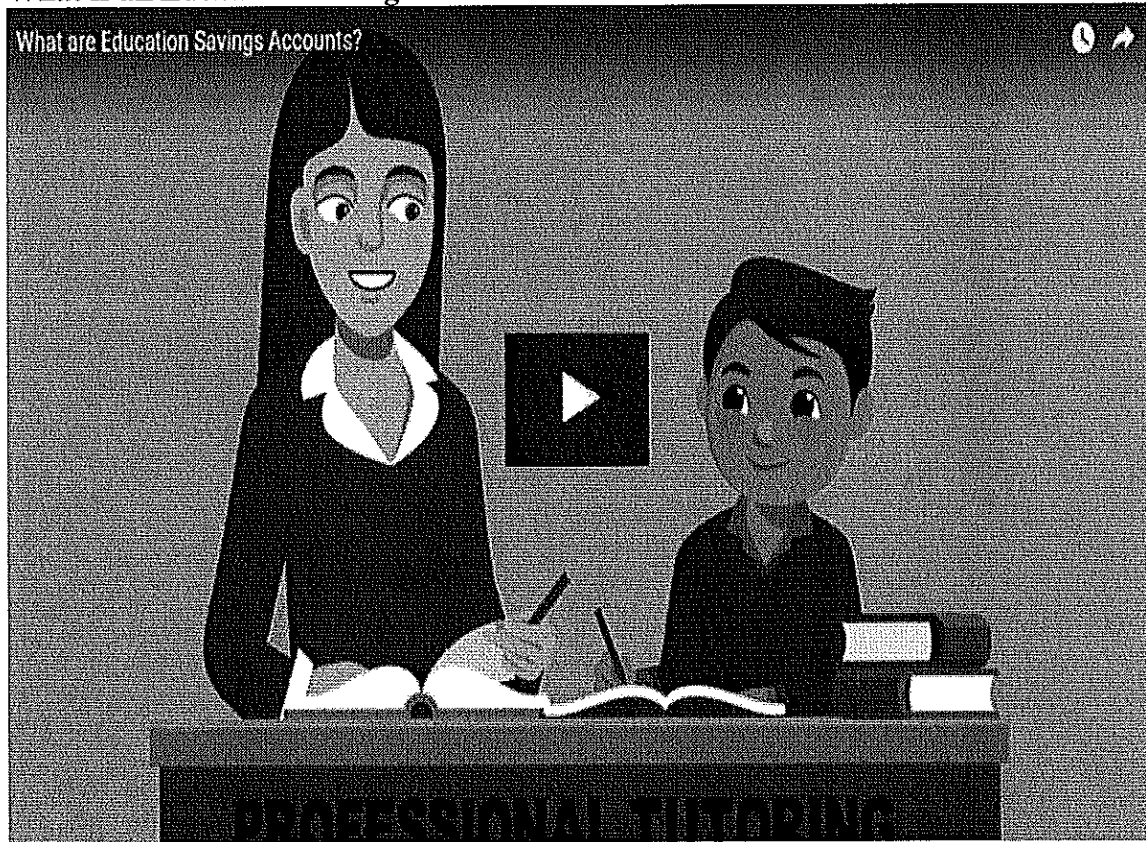
New Buckeye Institute Report: ESAs Would Meet Ohio's Unique Educational Needs

Columbus, OH - On Wednesday, The Buckeye Institute released its latest report, *Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio*, by **Greg R. Lawson** and **Lindsey Burke**. This timely new research assesses the benefits of educational savings accounts (ESAs) and calls on Ohio policymakers to adopt this innovative tool, which gives parents the ability to pay for the education services that best meet their child's individual needs, rather than being forced to use a one-size-fits-all model.

"The ESA concept builds upon Ohio's successes with a variety of scholarship programs such as EdChoice and will ensure that Ohio's children receive the education they deserve," said Lawson. "It also provides additional incentives that propel Ohio's educational system

forward from a 20th Century model into one nimble enough to meet the demands of the 21st Century."

What is an Education Savings Account?



In the **report**, Lawson and Burke outline precisely how ESAs would enable parents to customize their child's education to meet his or her unique needs. For example, ESAs would allow parents to pay not only for private schools, but also allow them to use any remaining money in the account to pay for additional educational items such as textbooks, tutors, enroll students in online classes, or even save money for college.

"To enhance choices for families, infuse innovation into the K-12 sector, and ensure that education opportunities are as unique as the children they teach, Ohio should establish a universal ESA option that maximizes flexibility, accommodation, and parent-driven accountability, Lawson and Burke said in the report. "Ohio students deserve access to the best educational opportunities. Empowering all families to customize their children's

education through ESAs builds upon Ohio's existing school choice options to ensure that every child has instruction suited to their individual needs."

See how Education Savings Accounts are Helping Families in Arizona, Florida, and Mississippi.

In the report, Burke and Lawson suggest two potential funding mechanisms for ESAs.

One option is funding an ESA program much like the state funds charter schools. The state could place 90 percent of the full per-pupil amount (\$6,000) into an ESA account and send the remaining 10 percent to the student's originally assigned school district in order to defray a portion of the district's fixed costs.

A second option would deposit only the actual amount that the district would have received from the state into a student's ESA account. As Burke and Lawson note, though, while this mechanism might be easier to implement, it would also create less predictable ESA contributions.

In their conclusion, Lawson and Burke find that ESAs would ensure that every child has instruction more suited to his or her individual needs and would empower parents to make and afford educational choices for their children that meet those needs.

Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and served for five years on the boards of two Columbus-based charter schools. Burke is the director of the Center for Education Policy at the **Heritage Foundation** and the Will Skillman fellow in education policy. She is also a fellow at **EdChoice**.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

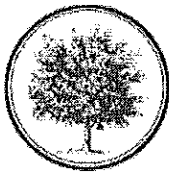
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Buckeye Urges Greater Spending Restraint and Tax Reform in Budget

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2017

Buckeye Urges Greater Spending Restraint and Tax Reform in Budget *Greg R. Lawson Testifies before Senate Finance Committee*

Columbus, OH - In testimony (scroll down for the complete testimony) before the Senate Finance Committee on Ohio's biennial budget (Sub. H. B. No. 49), **The Buckeye Institute's** Greg R. Lawson urged the Ohio Senate to "pursue meaningful reform" in a number of key policy areas that will reign in government spending, reform Ohio's tax code, increase educational choice and improve Ohio's criminal justice system.

"State budgets are always about more than just dollars and cents. They represent more than simply funding state programs. The state budget process gives legislators and policymakers the chance to adopt policy preferences and priorities for the next two years," said Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "That's a golden opportunity to pursue meaningful reform that shouldn't be missed."

Building on The Buckeye Institute's **2017 Piglet Book**, and commentary written throughout the budget process (**What the Ohio Senate Should Do with the Biennial Budget and House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform**), Lawson outlined areas where the Ohio Senate can improve the budget and provided specific policy recommendations for the members to consider.

Lawson encouraged the Senate to consider the following:

- More spending reductions;
- A small, across-the-board income tax cut and modifications to the small business tax deduction;
- Embracing the governor's education funding policies and changing the "safe harbor" provisions so that the **EdChoice scholarship program** functions as designed;
- Adopting most of the House of Representative's Medicaid provisions-except for returning to the governor's managed care proposal regarding the Aged, Blind, and Disabled community;
- Adopting the governor's proposed budget for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, especially the **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison** program's expansion;
- Returning to the governor's proposals regarding need-based Local Government Fund allocations;
- Re-examining and eliminating occupational license fee increases; and
- Retaining limits on the Controlling Board's authority to spend unanticipated federal dollars, and curtailing the Board's authority to raise occupational license fees.

In concluding his testimony, Lawson praised the reforms lawmakers have made that have improved Ohio's economy. "Despite economic headwinds and clouds still looming along the horizon, Ohio has improved its prospects for job- and income-growth. As the first green shoots of growth begin to blossom, the biennial budget provides Senators with the perfect opportunity to set a bold course for Ohio's prosperity."

###

**Interested Party Testimony Submitted to the
Ohio Senate Finance Committee on the Biennial Operating Budget**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**

June 1, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today regarding the biennial budget. My name is Greg R. Lawson, and I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** here in Columbus.

State budgets are always about more than just dollars and cents. They represent more than simply funding state programs. The state budget process gives legislators and policymakers the chance to adopt policy preferences and priorities for the next two years.

That's a golden opportunity to pursue meaningful reform that shouldn't be missed. The Buckeye Institute believes that the current budget proposal up for your consideration requires a number of critical changes in order to take full advantage of this biennial opportunity to make Ohio more prosperous. Our recommendations include changes to government spending, tax and education policies, Medicaid, and local government policies.

We would encourage the Senate to consider the following:

- More spending reductions;
- A small, across-the-board income tax cut and modifications to the small business tax deduction;
- Embracing the Governor's education funding policies and changing the "safe harbor" provisions so that the **EdChoice scholarship program** functions as designed;
- Adopting most of the House of Representative's Medicaid provisions-except for returning to the Governor's managed care proposal regarding the Aged, Blind, and Disabled community;
- Adopting the Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, especially the **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP)** program's expansion;
- Returning to the Governor's proposals regarding need-based Local Government Fund allocations;
- Re-examining and eliminating occupational license fee increases; and
- Retaining limits on the Controlling Board's authority to spend unanticipated federal dollars, and curtailing the Board's authority to raise occupational license fees.

With the Committee's permission, I will explain these recommendations in more detail.

Spending

The House of Representative's budget *appears* to reduce Governor Kasich's budget proposal by \$12.8 billion over the fiscal years (FY) 2018-19. Unfortunately, much of the apparent reduction is unlikely to be realized. More than 96 percent of the House's on paper reductions manifest in two areas: a fiduciary pass-through account that collects municipal income taxes in order to redistribute them; and Medicaid.

First, the Governor's budget proposed a large increase to this account as part of the Governor's proposed business net-taxes filings. The House modified that proposal and thus reduced the Governor's expected appropriations by \$944 million.

Second, the House budget calls for significant reductions in Medicaid spending that, in our view, are unlikely to materialize. The House appropriates \$5.6 billion less than the Governor proposed for FY18, and \$5.8 billion less for FY19. This intentional underfunding dovetails nicely with the House's new "guard rails" on the Medicaid program that will require Controlling Board approval every six months in order to increase Medicaid spending, and assurances that the Administration is pursuing Medicaid reforms, including Healthy Ohio and other state innovation waivers.

We agree with these efforts to tether the "Pac-Man" of Ohio's budget, but we assume that the Administration will seek those waivers and that the Controlling Board will therefore release most of the Medicaid funds. Consequently, the House's "reductions" will likely prove illusory.

Accordingly, we believe that further reductions in state spending are needed to keep Ohio's budget in the black and allow for meaningful tax reform. The Buckeye Institute urges renewed focus on spending outside core government services, namely, spending associated with the arts, marketing assistance for Ohio's grape industry, and other examples of earmarks and public spending on private businesses that effectively allows the government to pick "winners and losers" in the marketplace.

My testimony includes an attached copy of The Buckeye Institute's **2017 Piglet Book** for more specific spending-cut recommendations.

Taxes

The Buckeye Institute has long argued that Ohio should eliminate its personal income tax, and Governor Kasich has kept his promise to reduce the burden of the income tax on all Ohio families, most recently with a 6.3 percent reduction in income tax rates in 2015.

In 2016, Ohio's per capital labor income, per capita investment income, and the employed population grew faster than in most Midwest states due, in no small part, to the Administration's tax cuts that also helped Ohio's per capita economic output outperform the national average.

Although we agree with the general direction of Mr. Kasich's tax policy, we differ on a few specifics.

Like the Governor, we want Ohio's small businesses eventually to pay no income tax, but the current small business tax deduction appears to create a great deal of tax shifting and has meant significant declines in revenue. We believe it will prove more sustainable to lower these deductions and give Ohio's tax brackets an across-the-board rate cut. The Senate should explore other areas, such as phasing down the property tax rollback by one or two percent, to offset revenue losses and pay for an across-the-board rate cut. A one percent rollback reduction, for instance, could yield tens of millions in savings over the biennium, and a two percent cut could save over \$100 million.

Currently, the state pays 10 percent of property taxes for all Ohioans, and for those who live in their home the state pays an additional 2.5 percent. Thus the state sets aside more than \$1.8 billion in general revenues each fiscal year to reimburse local governments for local decisions. Since the property tax rollback program was adopted when Ohio began imposing an income tax, the amount spent on the program should be cut as Ohio's income tax declines. The Senate also should consider means testing the rollback beyond our suggested phased-in reduction.

Finally, because Ohio's municipal tax structure remains a daunting labyrinth, especially for smaller businesses, The Buckeye Institute recommends returning to the Governor's proposed municipal income tax reform. Should it remain optional for businesses to file net-profits municipal income taxes, however, we encourage the Senate at least to guarantee that taxpayers do not pay an administrative fee for filing net-profits taxes.

Education

The Senate should retain the basic outline of the current education budget but should *not* increase appropriations beyond those made by the House. We would urge the Senate to return to the Governor's proposed appropriation levels and remove "safe harbor" provisions that unfairly restrict eligibility for EdChoice scholarships.

The House budget rightly embraced the contours of Governor Kasich's education proposal that begins unwinding the "caps" and "guarantees" that distort the Foundation Funding Formula. Money should follow students and *not* just be used as a mechanism for funding the education "system" and its ever-expanding bureaucracy.

The Senate should also eliminate or reform the current "safe harbor" provision that denies parents school-choice options by preventing hundreds of schools across the state from being eligible for EdChoice scholarships.

Medicaid

We think that the Senate should embrace the House budget's language on Medicaid and state innovation waivers-including resubmitting the Healthy Ohio waiver-and add deadlines for submitting those waivers to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Additionally, the Senate should include language that maintains the Administration's flexibility to improve Ohio's health care system.

Ohio's 2015 budget instructed the Kasich Administration to seek a state innovation waiver granting some freedom from onerous regulations under the Affordable Care Act. The new Secretary of HHS has encouraged states to pursue innovation waivers and the Senate should expand on 2015's waiver instructions and encourage Mr. Kasich's Administration to pursue waivers that will lower premiums. The Senate should include a reinsurance component similar to the waiver submitted by Alaska (and touted by HHS) that could reduce insurance premiums for Ohioans.

Some providers are understandably concerned about Governor Kasich's proposal to shift many aged, blind, and disabled Medicaid recipients into managed care. This process should be closely monitored and evaluated, of course, but continued delay will likely mean higher costs and less coordination of care, and we recommend adopting the Governor's proposal in this area.

Criminal Justice

The Buckeye Institute supports the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's budget proposal dealing with the TCAP program. As we testified before the House, we support policies that would rehabilitate low-level offenders in their communities. The Senate should return to Governor Kasich's proposal or, at the very least, should maintain the proposal in the House budget.

Rehabilitating low-level offenders in the community is twice as effective as state incarceration at one-third the cost, and watering down the TCAP provisions even further would significantly dilute the policy's potency.

Local Government

The Senate should further reduce the Local Government Fund (LGF). The House appropriations call for \$388.1 million in FY18 and \$393.5 million in FY19. The Buckeye Institute has suggested eliminating the LGF entirely, which would save more than \$781 million over the coming biennium. At the very least, we think that the Senate should return to the Governor's proposal and direct LGF dollars to those communities that have the greatest difficulty raising requisite revenues locally.

Separately, the Senate should not increase or make permanent distributions to counties for lost sales tax revenue due to the eliminated Medicaid Managed Care Organization tax. Those tax dollars were windfalls that counties obtained through piggyback sales tax systems. If new funds are needed to pay for local issues, then those dollars should be raised at the local level and not become a Columbus-based subsidy that obscures the true cost of local government from local taxpayers.

Occupational Licensing

To help more Ohioans secure gainful employment, the Senate should eliminate, or at least reduce, state-imposed hurdles and licensing fees strewn throughout the House's budget.

The Senate should also include language from the 131st General Assembly's Senate Bill 329 that would require the state to seek the "least restrictive form of regulation" for occupational licensing. This would clarify Ohio's interest in maintaining public safety without denying people employment prospects and opportunities. This language cleared both chambers of the General Assembly last year, and Governor Kasich's veto concerned SB 329's agency sun-setting provisions and not the "least restrictive form of regulation" language.

Controlling Board Reform

The Senate should build upon the House's effort to reassert legislative power over spending through reasonable reforms to the Controlling Board. The House capped the windfall money that could be obligated by the Controlling Board at \$10 million, and the Senate should maintain the House's cap. The Senate should also eliminate the Controlling Board's authority to raise occupational license fees by up to 50 percent—a roadblock for people

trying to secure well-paying jobs. Alternatively, the Senate should lower the occupational licensing fee cap to 25 percent.

Conclusion

In conclusion, despite economic headwinds and clouds still looming along the horizon, Ohio has improved its prospects for job- and income-growth. As the first green shoots of growth begin to blossom, the biennial budget provides Senators with the perfect opportunity to set a bold course for Ohio's prosperity.

Thank you for your time and attention today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Geig, Elise
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn
CC: Zielinski, Justin; 'statesenator29@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7

Here is the info about the advocacy day that the union has planned. We have committee planned for 10 am to hear sponsor and proponent so it looks like that should time well with their schedule.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. on the Sheraton second floor. That's where you will receive your t-shirt. At 10:30 a.m., we will start our day with a brief meeting that will include the latest information on the status of the COLA issue and an overview of the day's activities. We will provide lunch before we march together over to the Statehouse and then onto SERS

Best,

Elise Geig

Majority Policy Advisor | Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street, 14th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.644.0380 | Mobile: 614.371.7554
Elise.geig@ohiohouse.gov

From: Laurel Johnson [mailto:LJohnson@ohsers.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Geig, Elise <Elise.Geig@ohiohouse.gov>; Bethany Rhodes <Bethany.Rhodes@orsc.org>;
Jeff Bernard <Jeff.Bernard@orsc.org>
Subject: FW: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7

Hi Elise and Bethany – I wanted to send you the OAPSE rally notice for June 7 so you had the details. Please let me know if you have any questions. Many thanks.

Laurel J. Johnson, APR
Senior Government Relations Officer
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
300 East Broad Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 222-5918
ljohnson@ohsers.org

Serving the People Who Serve Our Schools ®

Begin forwarded message:

From: OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4 <kmalone@oapse.org>
Date: May 23, 2017 at 4:04:13 PM EDT
To: bphillips@zoominternet.net
Subject: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7
Reply-To: kmalone@oapse.org

Keep the promise.

**PROTECT OUR
PENSIONS!**

OAPSE/AFSCME



**Action Alert: Rally and March for
Retirement Security Set for June 7 in
Columbus**

Tell Legislators and SERS: KEEP THE PROMISE, PROTECT PENSIONS

OAPSE is fighting to save your pension and your retirement security. We are pushing back against Senate Bill 151 (SB151) and a proposed freeze and reduction in the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for current and future retirees under SERS. **We hope you will join us!**

Click on the videos below to get current information about the proposed COLA cuts and how you can help by joining us for Lobby Day in Columbus on June 7.



You should have received a phone call from Director Joe Rugola, and you will receive an email with the latest on the most up-to-date details as we get closer to June 7. **We are encouraging members from all over Ohio to carpool to Columbus for the Wednesday, June 7 Rally.** We will meet at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, Ohio 43215.



Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. on the Sheraton second floor. That's where you will receive your t-shirt. At 10:30 a.m., we will start our day with a brief meeting that will include the latest information on the status of the COLA issue and an overview of the day's activities. We will provide lunch before we march together over to the Statehouse and then onto SERS.

OAPSE will pay mileage and parking to drivers, and we are encouraging carpools. **Please fill your cars!** In addition to your t-shirt and lunch, we will provide \$15 to attendees to cover other food expenses during your day.

We plan to finish up by 3 p.m. so you can beat rush hour traffic out of town.

**To help us plan, please RSVP by calling Rob Fantauzzo at the state office on our toll-free number,
1-800-786-2773.**

See you in Columbus on June 7!

STAY CONNECTED:



OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4, 6805 Oak Creek Drive, Columbus, OH 43229

[SafeUnsubscribe™ bphillips@zoominternet.net](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [kmalone@oapse.org](#) in collaboration with



Try it free today

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The School Employees Retirement System of Ohio intends this e-mail message, and any attachments, to be used only by the person(s) or entity to which it is addressed. This message may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. If the reader is not the intended recipient of this message or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you are prohibited from printing, copying, storing, disseminating or distributing this communication. If you received this communication in error, please delete it from your computer and notify the sender by reply e-mail.

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 1:29 PM
To: House_All
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Reducing Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees.pdf



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 2, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

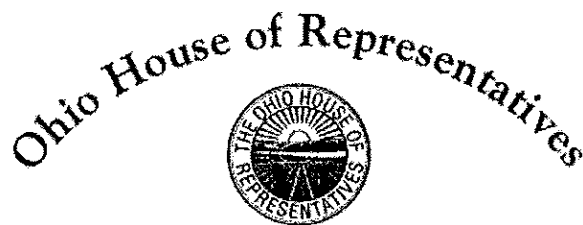
State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-

sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, June 13**.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 2, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

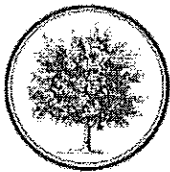
If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by Tuesday, June 13.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 2:23 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Swampy state budgets need The Buckeye Institute's dry analysis

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm guessing that not many of you know that the Bayou state (which was originally dubbed *La Louisiane* in tribute to Louis XIV--King of France from 1643 to 1715) has gotten into a budgetary pickle here in the year 2017 AD.

Fear not.

To help policymakers in Baton Rouge sort out their options, The Buckeye Institute collaborated with our good friends at the Pelican Institute (Louisiana's premier voice for free markets) to conduct a peer reviewed study on a dozen tax policies and proposed changes, including some of Governor John Bel Edward's ill-advised plans.

Buckeye's Economic Research Center (ERC) team created a customized dynamic model of Louisiana's existing economy and then inputted various policy changes to determine which solutions would create the least amount of economic harm to the already struggling families and businesses in Louisiana.

When numbers speak, we listen. Our team of economists and data analysts is second to none and, golly geezers, do they ever get excited about charts and graphs and exploring the validity of their hypotheses with hard numbers. For those of us whose highest math

class was a senior year of honors calculus in high school before we took that wretchedly easy class widely known as "math for liberal arts (a.k.a. political science) majors" in college, these guys are the mad scientists and geniuses who understand complex theorems and derivatives the way I understand my son's excuses for avoiding his homework. In other words, they see through to the truth of the matter at hand.

After finalizing our research, our lead economist Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., along with Buckeye's president and CEO Robert Alt, flew down to make the case in person and present the results of our comprehensive analysis. These two Buckeye Institute superstars met with policymakers and leaders in the legislature, industry groups, press and media folks, and showed all of them the simulated policy changes through our economic model.

The model determined that eliminating the corporate income tax and replacing it with a revenue neutral sales tax increase would create jobs, grow the economy, and increase tax revenue. Only a Maoist could oppose those exciting outcomes. Approximately two weeks after these meetings, the same legislative leaders with whom our team met soundly defeated the Governor's policy proposals. Three cheers for economic sanity and courageously standing up to bad fiscal policy.

We are pleased to roll out this impactful new report, *Addressing Louisiana's Budget Shortfall: Strategies for Growth*, and show everyone in greater detail what our economic model produced.

"Rather than pursue revenues through increasing the tax burden on citizens, Louisiana would be better served by reducing or eliminating its corporate taxes, and creating incentives for increasing investment, and job creation across the state," said Dr. Orphe Pierre Divounguy, economist with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center and lead author on the report. "Eliminating Louisiana's corporate income and franchise taxes offer the best path for spurring economic growth and eliminating some sales tax exemptions would have the least harmful effect on the state's gross domestic product while still raising additional tax revenue."

I should note here that it has come to our attention that some very dear supporters of ours are not reading all of our reports in full. They are long, yes, but what better way to prepare yourself to refute the one we heard the other day where Nancy Pelosi was speaking to a classroom full of second graders and was asked the awkward question about where jobs come from. Without missing a beat, she answered that there is a stork employed by the government who drops them off in each state every nine months.....

Okay, fine, that was a lame joke, but still, you should read these excellent economic reports that give us all the evidence necessary to push back against the big-government nonsense that surrounds us.

We love you all and thank you kindly for making our work possible to fight unsound economic policies wherever they are--whether here in Columbus or another state in this great nation, so that we do not meanly lose this last best hope of earth.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

Support The Buckeye Institute!



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) brad.miller@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org